FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 APRIL 1983

Lebanon

Aftermath of Embassy Bombing — Rescue teams continue to recover more victims of the blast at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut where at least 61 people may have died, AFP reported. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said that Lebanese authorities have "some indications" that may help to identify those responsible for the attack and warned that further attacks may be carried out, AFP added.

Although earlier the "Islamic Jihad Organization" had claimed responsibility for the bombing, several other groups have also been linked with the blast. Jerusalem radio's Arabic service, citing Beirut papers, reported that an organization to "avenge the Sabra and Shatila victims" and another group, known as the "Socialist Union Arabs Organization-Action National Cells," claimed credit for the explosion. Later, the radio's commentary implicated Syria as the party "supervising" terrorism and violence in Lebanon.

An unidentified Western diplomat from one of the countries contributing to the multinational peacekeeping force said the blast serves "numerous Israeli goals," KUNA reported.

Meanwhile, Iran continued to dissociate itself from the attack. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati denied any involvement by the Islamic Republic and labeled such allegations "a propaganda plot," according to an interview in the daily ETTELA'AT reported by IRNA. Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi said attempts to attribute the explosion to Iran are "a pretext to attack the Islamic Republic," Tehran radio noted.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said the aim of the explosion in Beirut is to block efforts to find a just solution to the Middle East problem and to further entangle the region in the spiral of antagonism between the great powers, thus enabling Israel to continue occupying Lebanon and implementing its plans against the West Bank and Gaza, TAP reported. The Jordanian daily AR-RA'Y saw "Israel's hands" behind the event. According to the paper, the perpetrators wanted to demonstrate that both the Lebanese and the multinational force are unable to safeguard stability in Lebanon and that the role played by the United States in the area can become "very costly," Amman radio reported.

Negotiations — Progress was made on certain points at the 19 April Netanya talks, but "lack of time" prevented discussion of the "basic points," Beirut radio reported. Lebanon expects an "intensive U.S. move to give new momentum" to the negotiations, the radio noted. During the plenary session, Israeli delegation leader David Kimche blamed the U.S. Embassy bombing on "extremist elements" and their backers who are "trying to regain the centers which they lost in Beirut," Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Syria

Sources in Moscow disclosed that the chief of Syrian military intelligence is heading a high-level military delegation on a secret visit to the Soviet Union for talks on the increasing Syrian-Israeli tension in Lebanon, KUNA reported. Meanwhile, a Damascus radio commentary emphasized that Syria seeks peace and is prepared to find solutions to disputes in the area. However, the peace process must operate through the United Nations and on the basis of UN principles and international law, the radio said. The peace being sought by the United States, which aims to reconcile "Israeli expansionism" and U.S. designs "to control the area and its oil," is completely unacceptable to the Arabs and can never be established, the radio asserted.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Budapest and held talks with Hungarian leaders, Budapest radio reported. Earlier, 'Arafat told a press conference in Prague that his visit to Czechoslovakia was successful and that his talks there were "constructive and positive," according to CTK.

Oil Slick

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received a Saudi envoy who delivered a message from King Fahd on the Gulf oil slick, Baghdad radio reported. Stressing Iraq's concern over the problem, Saddam reaffirmed that Iraq is ready to cooperate with the Arab Gulf countries in dealing with the situation on a sound basis that would serve the interests of all parties concerned while preventing Iran from "exploiting the situation," the radio said. Meanwhile, technical experts of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment postponed their planned meeting in Bahrain until 23 April, QNA reported.

Egypt

During a brief visit to Khartoum for talks with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, President Husni Mubarak told a press conference that, although there is no new Egyptian-U.S. initiative on the Palestinian issue, Egypt is continuing its unceasing efforts to achieve a comprehensive solution, MENA reported. He urged the Palestinians to "let wisdom and logic prevail before it is too late" and agree with King Husayn on a Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in order to frustrate any excuse to "liquidate" the Palestinian issue. The Egyptian leader urged states supplying offensive weapons to Iran and Iraq to reconsider this policy because it "only increases the bloodshed and waste" caused by the war. President Numayri, also speaking at the press conference, announced that Mubarak had performed a great duty for the Egyptian and Sudanese people by coming to Khartoum "to cast his vote for the president of Sudan on behalf of the Egyptian people."

FBIS

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'Arafat Meets With Israeli CP Leader in Prague

JN200624 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] In Prague the day before yesterday, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, met with Me'ir Wilner, the secretary general of the Israeli Communist Party. WAFA, which reported the meeting, added that 'Arafat and Wilner exchanged views concerning the developments in the Middle East region.

In another development, the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine released a joint statement in Damascus yesterday, delineating the guidelines of their policies following the breakdown in the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. The two fronts emphasized that the attempts to hold an Arab summit are aimed at changing the resolutions previously adopted by the Arab summits regarding the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO'S representation status.

East European Coverage of 'Arafat Tour

For Hungarian media coverage of the visit by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Hungary beginning 19 April, see the Hungarian section of the 20 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

For CSSR reportage on the visit to Czechoslovakia by Yasir 'Arafat, including coverage of talks with Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee and president of the republic, and a festive dinner held for 'Arafat, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 19 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues

For the Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO "announcement" on the 15 April visit to Bulgaria by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, see the Bulgaria section of the 20 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

Arab League Statement on Beirut Embassy

LD191636 Tunis TAP in English 1400 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis, April 19 (TAP) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi made on Tuesday the following statement after the attempt against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut:

"The attempt against the American Embassy in Beirut does not in the least serve the peaceful efforts undertaken to find a just and global solution to the Near-East conflict and the Lebanese issue. On the contrary, its aim is to block these efforts and rush the region into the spiral of antagonism between great powers, which would enable Israel to keep on occupying Lebanon and complete the implementation of its plan aiming to achieve definitive seizure of (?the) Jordan and Gaza. This is actually the aim of Begin and his annexation policy".

KUNA Reports U.S. Plan to Split PLO

LD191648 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1431 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Fes, 19 Apr (KUNA) — An Arab diplomatic source has revealed to KUNA America's urgent efforts to split the PLO through proposals that call for separating what they describe as the moderates from the extremists, coupled with guaranteed American and international recognition of the PLO in any political form it may assume. This would be in return for the PLO continuing to follow the line it is following now: to (?renew) approval of UN Resolution No 242 and recognize Israel. The United States would then promise to invite a delegation from the moderate forces to Washington to officially negotiate with the U.S. Administration on the basis of promoting the Reagan plan, which would contain a declared U.S. stand calling for a halt to the construction of Zionist settlements in the occupied territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

KUNA has learned that these proposals have been conveyed through Arab parties, but Palestinian circles have paid no attention to them.

Monte Carlo Radio Interviews DFLP's Hawatimah

JN152025 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1812 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Telephone interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in Damascus on 15 April, conducted by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal and Damascus correspondent Louis Faris, carried in the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] It seems that the anticipated important PLO meetings in Tunis will be a bit late. Brother Nayif, what are the reasons for this delay?

[Hawatimah] I think it was impossible to hold these meetings in 24 or 48 hours because we had already finished the Kuwaiti meetings and adopted clear decisions on Palestinian-Jordanian and Palestinian-Arab relations. The call for these emergency meetings was made at the request of King Hassan II, who suggested inviting brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Morocco, and afterward King Husayn, to seek a compromise between them. The Palestinian leadership clearly believed that there was no need for hurry and that we could wait a little so that all of us could have time to think. These meetings are expected to be held within 7-10 days in order to discuss all the latest developments.

[Nawfal] Brother Nayif, it has been noted that not all the resistance factions were invited to the meetings the Fatah movement held in Kuwait. However, you attended these meetings.

[Hawatimah] This is true for the following reason: The meeting was held because Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the Jordanian

Government to postpone reaching a decisive stage in the Jordanian-Palestinian talks pending his meeting with his brothers in the Fatah Central Committee, particularly since the PLO Executive Committee was then meeting in Amman.

This meeting in Kuwait was attended by the Fatah Central Committee and the members of the Palestinian delegation who were taking part in the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. Upon the request of my comrades in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], I cut my visit to Bulgaria short and immediately flew to Kuwait aboard a special airplane to take part in these meetings because Comrade Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh is a prominent member of the delegation taking part in the Amman talks. Thus, the situation appeared as if it were a special meeting of Fatah and the DFLP, while actually it was a meeting for Fatah and the Palestinian delegation participating in the talks. I joined it upon the request of my comrades. As the saying goes, the more the merrier. Actually the results confirmed this.

[Nawfal] The official Jordanian Government statement said Reagan's plan is the only mechanism at present which can move the wheel of peace. The Palestinian resistance rejects this mechanism and rejects Reagan's plan. Now, in light of this situation, how can Jordan, particularly King Husayn, act? Here I want to ask a direct question: Much has been said about stands and threats. For example, a firm stand may be adopted by King Husayn against the PLO. This stand may go as far as severing relations. What is your opinion?

[Hawatimah] I firmly believe that the Jordanian regime's declaration that the Reagan plan is the only plan which has a mechanism is not so simple. The Fes resolutions, for instance, suggest the direct mechanism of transferring the whole Middle East issue, including the Palestinian question — the crux of the Middle East issue — to the UN Security Council. Moreover, in the PNC resolutions, the PLO suggested another mechanism to transfer the entire Middle East issue to an expanded international conference to be attended by all the sides to the conflict, the big powers and the Nonaligned Movement states. However, the United States insists on its special plan, which expropriates the Palestinian people's independent rights and the PLO's role.

Under U.S. pressure, Jordan is moving in the direction it mentioned under various pretexts, such as that of defending Jordan's security, whereas Reagan's plan turns the whole national Palestinian cause into a mere border conflict between Jordan and the State of Israel. Such a situation threatens Jordan's security because Israel will then justify additional attacks on Jordan as long as the entire issue proposed is that of a border conflict between two countries.

In light of all this I firmly believe that the Jordanian authority's stands or threats against the PLO have no place in relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. I clearly believe that the Jordanian authorities will not undertake measures which harm the present and future relations between the two peoples. Otherwise, it will get involved in adventures whose results cannot be guaranteed. The situation in Jordan cannot endure such violent upheaval.

We have to remember that two interacting peoples are now living in Jordan. We also have to remember that the percentage of the two peoples' population is in favor of the Jordanian [as heard] people with regard to the demographical structure. Consequently, it would be difficult for any authority in Jordan to embark on this rugged course of harming its relations with the PLO, namely, between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

[Nawfal] Excuse me. In favor of which side from the demographic aspect?

[Hawatimah] In favor of the Palestinian people.

[Nawfal] Fine, because you inadvertently said Jordanians. But it is said that, in the case of an exodus from the occupied territories, Amman would close the bridges. Do you believe this could take place?

[Hawatimah] It seems some of us forget that Israel is not entirely free to do what it likes in this world, despite all the savage, sanguinary acts we have witnessed so far. Israel cannot, contrary to all earthly and heavenly laws, carry out mass deportation from the occupied territories. Our people there are deeply rooted and hold tenaciously to their land. The best proof of this is Bassam ash-Shak'ah's and Karim Khalaf's legs, which were sacrificed and implanted in the land to defend their existence on this land. Any deportation would be resisted, not only by our people, but also by all self-respecting nations and states in this world. Therefore, I do not believe that we are heading toward a major Israeli crime, because it is not free to commit such a crime. The bridges can be closed at any moment in the face of any eviction. We support the closure of the bridges in the face of any Israel actions aimed at uprooting our people from the occupied territory.

[Nawfal] In addition to the reported Jordanian threats, there seem to be others. It is said that, if the PLO, or rather Yasir 'Arafat, reaches an agreement with King Husayn, there might be other considerations concerning future Palestinian resistance, such as the formation of another liberation organization. How true are these reports?

[Hawatimah] I do not believe that anyone in this world can establish another liberation organization. The PLO was not bestowed on us by any Arab state or any country in the world. The PLO was established by our people, by 18 years of organized military, political, and popular struggle and by the rivers of blood and the mountains of martyrs which have risen higher and higher until they touch the sky in defense of this people's right to existence, life, return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state. Anyone who thinks that he can establish another liberation organization is grossly mistaken. He may be able to establish a gang, a handful of people, claiming to represent the Palestinian people, but its fate would be miserable.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Brother Nayif, for answering my questions, which may have been somewhat embarrassing. I now hand over the microphone to colleague Louis Faris, who is sitting next to you in the Syrian capital. I believe he has some questions to ask.

[Faris] Brother Nayif, yesterday you met with President Hafiz al-Asad for about 3 hours, I believe. What was the outcome of this meeting, especially with regard to Syrian-Palestinian relations and Syrian stands on the basic issues now being raised in the region?

[Hawatimah] I believe we had a long, extensive, and very fruitful discussion. We dealt with a large number of issues, especially Palestinian-Syrian relations and Syrian stands on recent developments in the region. Regarding Palestinian-Syrian relations, we must remember that a series of grave developments have taken place during the past several weeks concerning the Palestine question. Pressure was applied on the PLO to make it agree to the Reagan plan and the Jordan mandate. We must also remember that pressure by pro-U.S. Arabs is being applied on the PLO even now. We have reaffirmed that reopening the door of Palestinian-Syrian relations is the correct, healthy way to regroup our forces in the face of all this pressure and to enable Palestinian-Syrian national revolutionary action to play a greater role in resisting all plans to make us accept U.S.-Israeli capitulation terms. Discussion centered on the necessity to reopen the door of relations and unravel the Palestinian-Syrian knot. I believe that we have accomplished a great deal on this path. I can say that the door is half open, or even more, to the restoration and rectification of Palestinian-Syrian relations. I think that within a few days, or a few weeks at most, we will see Palestinian-Syrian talks at the highest level to solve the standing problems.

[Faris] You say that the door is more than half open. This means that you expect a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and President al-Asad.

[Hawatimah] This is also true. The matter is no longer farfetched. Matters will unfold in the direction of unraveling all the knots in Palestinian-Syrian relations. If, God forbid, new obstacles arise, we will eliminate them. The door will not be closed again, because its closure will expose the Palestinian revolution and Syria to new hardships from the onslaught of pressure they are facing.

[Faris] My final question is: In light of yesterday's meeting with President al-Asad, do you see any common Syrian-Palestinian stands regarding the holding of an urgent Arab summit conference?

[Hawatimah] Yes, there are common stands. We in the PLO do not see any need to hold an urgent Arab summit conference. We came out of the recent Fes summit with a general framework and a common stand among the Arab countries. Our PNC considered the Fes resolutions to be the minimum level on which the Arab countries could move politically and we called for connecting this move with a military one. We also asked that these moves not conflict with the PNC resolutions and political program.

In light of all this, we believe there is no need for a new urgent summit conference. Why? Because those seeking a new urgent summit conference are actually trying to circumvent the resolutions of the [previous] Arab summits, including those of Fes, and to direct the march toward the Reagan plan. King Hassan's envoys openly indicated that they are seeking to hold an Arab summit in which a compromise between the Fes plan and the Reagan plan may be reached.

There was great understanding between us and Brother President Hafiz al-Asad in this regard and we both saw no need for an Arab summit whose aim is to circumvent the resolutions of the previous Arab summits. The proposed Arab summit has been postponed and we believe that this postponement should last until new local, regional, and international circumstances become available which require the convocation of such a meeting. The Arab states must honor their signatures on the summit resolutions and must struggle to implement these resolutions. The Arab countries must not try to renege on what they have freely and willingly agreed to and signed.

[Nawfal] My last question, Brother Nayif, from Paris. According to what I have learned and understood, the Tunis meetings are postponed, the Arab summit meeting is postponed, and everything else seems to be postponed. What is necessary now to break the stalemate? Would a summit meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat bring a breakthrough?

[Hawatimah] Yes, this is possible. I believe that, while facing all these developments, we need to hold tight to our Palestinian unity and to rectify Palestinian-Syrian relations. A Palestinian-Syrian summit meeting on this would help to find joint grounds for the joint struggle. It would help to further bolster the Lebanese people's struggle to ensure the withdrawal of all the occupying forces from their country, free of any conditions or strings. This summit would also provide a common stand to protect the Palestinian and Arab resolutions, which have won Palestinian and Arab unanimity.

BRIEFS

THREE LOAN ACCORDS — Algiers, 9 Apr (APS) — Three accords of loans were signed yesterday in Algiers between the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (FADES) on one hand and Tunisia, Djibouti and Bahrain on the other one. The amount of the Tunisian loan from the FADES designed for the Tunisian company of waters and supply in drinking water rises to 4 million Kuwaiti dinars repayable within 17 years with an annnual interest rate of six per cent. As concerns the loan of Bahrain, it is an accord granted by the FADES with a view to financing a project of telecommunication cable linking the Gulf countries: Bahrain, Qatar and Arab Emirates. This loan is redeemable within 12 years, with two years of grace delay, with an annual interest rate worth 6 per cent. As for the loan granted to Djibouti it deals with the contribution of FADES to finance a project leading to a center of electrical energy in Djibouti. It is remunerated by an annual interest rate worth four per cent and will be redeemable within 16 years with four years of delay of grace. [Excerpts] [Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 19 Apr 83 LD]

Market Monitoring Group Meets 18 April

No Evidence of 'Cheating'

LD191445 Vienna OPECNA in English 1723 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpt] London, 18 Apr. 83 (OPECNA) — The meeting of OPEC's market monitoring committee ended here this afternoon on a "positive" note, according to Marc Nan Nguema, OPEC secretary general.

He told an OPECNA correspondent at the end of the meeting that the committee reviewed the market situation and "we are completely satisfied that all OPEC members are adhering strictly to our present policy and production quota. There is no evidence of anyone discounting or cheating."

Nan Nguema said: "As a result of this strict adherence to the pricing and production agreement reached here last month there is a marked improvement in the market situation and we are confident that we can hold the line firm and strong."

Asked if OPEC had been in touch with Britain with a view to gaining support in efforts to stabilize the oil market, the secretary general said "not only with Britain, but also with other major non-OPEC oil exporters."

He said this should not be interpreted as a sign of weakness on the part of OPEC, "but we want to do everything possible to ensure that everyone acts responsibly, since everyone, both producers and consumers, stands to benefit from a stable market."

Asked why the conference was also attended by OPEC President Yahaya Dikko, who is not a member of the committee, Nan Nguema said Nigeria felt it was important for its attitude to be made known "following the latest move by the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) in cutting further the price of its oil. This was why the OPEC president found it necessary to be here himself."

Output Increase Discouraged

LD191446 Vienna OPECNA in English 1300 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] London, 19 Apr 83 (OPECNA) — Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates, Monday appealed to non-OPEC oil producers not to increase output or sell oil on the spot market.

Al-'Utaybah told a press conference after a meeting of the organization's market monitoring committee he did not anticipate a price war. He was confident OPEC would maintain the market price of 29 U.S. dollars fixed last month.

The UAE minister is chairman of the committee which also groups the oil ministers of Algeria, Indonesia and Venezuela. It will meet next in Paris on 7 June.

Al-'Utaybah said the committee had noted with satisfaction the improvement in the oil market. All OPEC countries had responded to the recent London agreement and there had been no cheating on prices or quotas. He estimated the present total output of OPEC at about 15 million b/d [barrels per day] and expected it to fluctuate between this figure and 17.5 million b/d — the overall ceiling endorsed last month. The minister agreed that oil companies were still destocking, but said the rate had fallen to four million b/d whereas it had previously reached a peak of seven to eight million b/d.

GULF AFFAIRS

Gulf Information Ministers Meet 19 April

GF191110 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The information ministers of the Arab Gulf countries held a meeting at UAE Information and Culture Minister Ahmad ibn Hamid's residence at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel this morning. During the meeting, the agenda of the 8th conference of the Gulf information ministers and a number of other issues were discussed.

The 2-day meetings of the eighth conference of Arab Gulf information ministers began at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel this morning.

KUWAIT

Amir Receives Andropov Message on Iraq-Iran War

LD201026 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0941 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Apr (KUNA) — It has been announced here today that the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah received a message from Yuriy Andropov, the Soviet leader, concerning the Iraq-Iran war and the Kuwaiti initiative to put an end to it. The message was delivered by the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait during a meeting with the amir earlier today. Sources said that the message includes "the Soviet reply to his highness' message concerning the need to bring together efforts to halt the Iraq-Iran war," which has been going on since September 1980. The sources added that in his message, the Soviet leader "expressed Soviet support for Kuwait's interest in working to end this war, and the need to continue the efforts aimed at achieving this objective."

QATAR

Amir Receives PDRY Chairman's Message 19 April

GF191140 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Doha, 19 Apr (WAKH) — The Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received a message from PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, on bolstering bilateral relations and the current developments in the Arab arena.

The message was conveyed by Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, PDRY foreign minister, when he was received by the amir here this morning.

The audience was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Ali al-'Aydarus, the PDRY ambassador to Kuwait.

The PDRY minister arrived in Doha last night on a 2-day visit to Qatar in the course of his tour of a number of countries in the region.

Foreign Ministers Meet

GF191522 Doha QNA in Arabic 1327 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Doha, 19 Apr (QNA) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, today received PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Doha.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and areas of cooperation, and the means to improve them, were discussed. The talks also dealt with recent developments in the Arab arena as well as issues of mutual interest.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ Editorial Criticizes PLO Retraction

PM191358 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Apr 83 p 3

[Editorial: "A Palestinian-Arab Pause Is Needed for Self-Appraisal"]

[Text] Jordanian-Palestinian mutual confirmation of the strong links between the two peoples and between the Jordanian Government and the PLO is something the Arab nation has become used to in times of real crisis; the aim being to absorb the anger resulting from such crises. There is no doubt, however, that the Jordanian monarch's termination of the dialogue with the PLO, and the reasons given in the Jordanian statement for that step, mean that there is something wrong with Jordanian-Palestinian relations and dialogue,which were supposed to be the most important features of the Arab political moves at this stage. That is why we must face reality and tell the truth so matters may be straightened out and so those whose decisions are made for them by non-Arab and non-Palestinian circles may wake up.

PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat knows very well that the Jordanian position and the agreement he had reached with the Jordanian monarch are the right "prescription" under the present circumstances and for the proposed political moves.

It was hoped that the 18 February Algiers meeting of the PNC would result in independent Palestinian decisions, put an end to Arab interference in Palestinian affairs, and bring the Palestinian factions with non-Palestinian loyalties back to the fold of Palestinian national unity. But the PLO's retraction from its agreement with Jordan clearly demonstrates that certain hands are covertly and overtly meddling in Palestinian affairs, and that certain Palestinian factions still link their decisions to certain Arab capitals which do not care about the Palestinian higher interest and, consequently, higher Arab interests—which are threatened by decisions made under pressure from those in search of leading roles in Arab and international politics.

The time has come for the Arab nation to clearly distinguish between positive and constructive attitudes on the one hand, and one-upmanship and role searching by people who reject everything and uphold the principle "upon myself and my enemy," on the other. The distinction should not be restricted to the media and the mere exposure of suspect roles. It should be coupled with firm decisions that would put an end to the loss and

one-upmanship to which we are dragged by certain parties among us, which are irresponsible and do not care about the Arab nation's unity and need for solidarity and a unified move to end the 35-year-long suffering. The PLO is perhaps the first to want such decisions. Why? Because when it revoked its agreement with Jordan, the PLO was not expressing the will of the free majority. It was warding off a danger threatening it from outside and from within. It was trying to preserve Palestinian cohesiveness and national unity and prevent sucession by certain factions which, like the states they are attached to, have foreign loyalties.

The important and serious question now is: How long will the PLO continue to play on this precarious balance to preserve Palestinian national unity? Are those whom the PLO is trying to preserve really interested in national unity, or are they just waiting for an opportunity to replace Yasir 'Arafat as leader and the PLO as an organization?

The truth is that the PLO is coming under internal and foreign pressure that might cause it to explode unless the PLO leadership handles the matter with complete decisiveness, clarity of vision, and farsightedness.

I do not agree with those who maintain that the Reagan plan is the cause of the Jordanian-Palestinian disagreement or of Arab disunity because the U.S. Administration cannot impose on the Palestinians or the Arabs something they are not convinced of or do not want. Furthermore, Reagan has not said that his plan is the final word or that it is his plan or nothing at all. He pitted his plan against the Arab plan realizing there was a need for common ground. Finding this common ground is not Washington's or President Reagan's responsibility. First and last, it is a Palestinian-Arab responsibility.

The cause is our cause, the Arab plan is our plan, and we must use all our cards to achieve our objectives by penetrating [ikhtiraq] the U.S. plan, enlisting the support of all international sides, and using these sides to put pressure on the United States.

What has happened so far does not indicate that the so-called extremists understand these facts well. They serve the interests of other states that want to have a part in the comprehensive settlement negotiations, completely ignoring the axioms and priorities of the policy of negotiation. Roles, in any case, are not given. They are dictated by the realities of the case. The circumstances and realities of the Palestinian case indicate thatit is the U.S. Administration which can put pressure on Israel and check the Zionist lust for colonialist expansion in the Arab world. Why? Because the United States provides all Israel's political, military, and economic requirements. We do not want to say that the United States holds most of the cards. These cards are held by both the United States and the Arabs. The U.S. ability to influence Israel depends on the force of the Arab pressure.

Regrettably, we still entertain illusory ideas and other ideas imported from the communist East about struggle, but those who boast about struggle have not actually engaged in it. They let the Palestinian people's fighters do it on their own in Beirut.

The Arabs and the PLO need to take another look at themselves and firmly and carefully appraise themselves so joint Arab political action may be rectified before it is too late. In fact, it was too late even 35 years ago.

Dailies on Armed Forces, Embassy Explosion

GF200710 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] The newspapers 'UKAZ and AL-BILAD write about the significance of bolstering our forces in order to be supportive of peace, righteousness, and justice.

On that subject, 'UKAZ wrote: "The Kingdom, while eager to strengthen its military power and enhance the experience and competence of the bold sons of the Saudi Army, seeks to uphold the formula 'there is no God but God and Muhammad is the messenger of God' and to protect the Islamic sanctuaries and this dear country."

"The second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation has affirmed this concept. He explained that the Kingdom's power is supportive of peace, righteousness, and justice and that the Kingdom will never seek or plot to intimidate or sabotage."

The newspaper added: "Actually, the Kingdom's efforts to build its personal force have not stopped for a moment on all economic, social, security, and military levels in order to build a force capable of deterring and providing personal protection for our achievements and Islamic heritage."

The newspaper AL-BILAD said: "Out of its historic responsibilities and comprehensive role in securing all legitimate rights of the region's peoples, the Kingdom puts its military, political, and diplomatic power at the disposal of the [Islamic] creed and the bolstering of Arab and Islamic presence in the international arena in order to serve and support the issues of Arab and Muslim peoples."

Regarding the U.S. Embassy incident in Beirut, the newspaper AR-RIYAD wrote: "In this act, Israel shows that it exploits its criminal nature in all directions and in all forms in order to serve its goals. Israel does not direct this instrument against the Arabs only, but against every force it thinks stands in the way of the ambitions of international Zionism, and has begun to impose a new age of imperialism bearing its name, characteristics, ambitions, and hateful hostility toward mankind. The Mosad, the octopus that spreads crime throughout the Zionist state, has become the alternative to the promises by which they gathered the scattered peoples of the world."

Mubarak Returns From Talks With Numayri in Khartoum

NC191750 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this afternoon from Khartoum after President Mubarak held talks with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

The president was seen off at the airport by President Numayri and senior Sudanese officials.

Before his departure from Khartoum President Mubarak said at a press conference that there is no new Egyptian-U.S. initiative on the Palestinian issue.

He said: We are continuing our efforts ped for a moment.

President Mubarak called on the states which assist Iraq and Iran to reconsider the supply of arms to them because it will have no benefit other than to cause bloodshed and to further exhaust the resources of the two peoples.

He affirmed that Egypt is continuing to exert utmost efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war and to solve the Lebanese problem.

Ghali Tells UN Press About Relations With PLO

NC182159 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali stated that Egypt has strong ties with the PLO and that it is in constant touch with it. He added that Egypt was in contact almost daily with the PLO during the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

During his meeting this evening with the members of the UN press delegation which is now visiting Cairo, Dr Ghali said that Egypt hopes that an agreement will be reached between the PLO and Jordan so that the peace negotiations can start, especially because time is critical at this phase. He said that Israel's continuing to raise obstacles in the way of negotiations and its policy of building settlements does not encourage the Palestinians to participate in the negotiations; therefore, action must be taken to overcome these obstacles. (He added that during the talks which took place this week, Egypt explained to the United States the importance of working to overcome all the obstacles in order to give momentum to the peace efforts and to maintain the continuation of the peace process in the area.

Dr Ghali said that despite its adherence to the peace treaty, Egypt has declared its denunciation of Israel's policy in the occupied territories and in Lebanon. Dr Ghali said that Egypt believes in the role of the United Nations and that, since the start of the peace process in 1977, Egypt has been calling on the United Nations to play its role to achieve peace in the area.

Ghali Interview With Paris Arabic Magazine

NC190939 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, 19 Apr (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that his recent visits to France and the United States were within the context of Egypt's diplomatic drive with the European Community and the United States, the latter being a full partner in the peace process. The visits were also within the context of Egypt's diplomatic activity with moderate Arabs and Israelis. He added that [words indistinct] we have hope that we can reactivate the peace process.

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic language magazine KULL AL-'ARAB, Ghali explained that there had been Egyptian contacts with the PLO before his visits to Paris and Washington. He said: We are holding contacts with all the Arab parties in order to have a full perception of the situation.

Asked whether U.S. President Reagan's decision to suspend the delivery of F-16 aircraft to Israel represents a positive sign in the U.S. position, Ghali said: This is a step which we hope will be followed by other steps. He added: There are many steps which the United States can take to put pressure on Israel, such as halting aid given for building new settlements, giving Israel only defensive weapons and censuring Israel when it uses offensive weapons.

Concerning the required Arab activity to reactivate the peace process in the Middle East, Ghali said: We hope that the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Palestinian sides will agree on a unified stand.

Ghali affirmed that U.S. activity is necessary at the present stage to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. He said that the U.S. side is presently facing two rejections, an Arab and an Israeli one for pursuing the negotiations. He added that if the U.S. side finds itself faced by an Israeli rejection and an Arab acceptance, there would be a sort of accord between the U.S. will and the Arab will. This would encourage the U.S. side to put further pressure on Israel.

In reply to a question on what would happen if the Arabs agreed together and acted, and Israel still refused to change its stand toward the negotiations, Ghali said: There are other solutions, but I wish to exploit the new situation created by President Reagan's initiative proclaimed in September.

Ghali affirmed the need to begin negotiations among all the parties on solving the Middle East issue without preconditions. Asked how negotiations could begin when Israel insists on not recognizing the PLO, Ghali said that these problems can be solved by letting the West Bank authorize its mayors . On whether the Palestinian people will agree to authorize anyone outside the PLO, Dr Ghali questioned: What is the alternative?

Ghali explained that the problem of negotiations on establishing peace in the Middle East is now distributed among all the parties — the Arab side, the U.S. side, and the Israeli side. He said: It is wrong to put the responsibility on one side and acquit the other

sides. We need willpower to overcome the existing problems. We must sit at the table which might and might not lead to a result. However, the mere sitting at the table, in my view, is in itself a step forward.

Concerning Egypt's relations with the PLO and Israel, Ghali said: We have contacts with various parties. I do not like to divulge the details of the current contacts between Egypt and the PLO, nor the details of the current contacts between Egypt and the moderate elements.

Asked whether there were Egyptian-PLO contacts following the PNC's meeting recently held in Algiers, whether these contacts were on the same level as those before the meeting, and whether the misunderstanding between the two sides was removed, Ghali said: Yes, contacts were held on the same level. I do not know if the misunderstanding has been removed but I know that there have been contacts. There is a difference between removing a misunderstanding and the contacts themselves.

On the current Arab situation, Ghali said that there are difficulties inside the Arab community and, undoubtedly, Arab rejection does not help action. The contradictions in the Arab world also do not help action. There is the Iraqi-Iranian confrontation and there are Arab states which side with Iran. There are negative factors that do not help action and that do not help reaching the desired consensus. However, we must overcome these difficulties or work in spite of them.

Answering a question on the alternative in the event Israel exploits the time factor and the effect of this on the chances of peace in the area, Ghali said: We must not think of alternatives before we continue with the present action. If we today start speaking about alternatives, we will thus be announcing that the present action has failed.

Ghali pointed out that Egyptian activity is confined to persuasion and contacts and that Egyptian diplomacy talks and explains.

He said that a strategy exists whereby, if the present activity fails, the alternatives will be available immediately. He, however, pointed out that the Egyptian strategy at present is based on further contacts with all the states of the world.

Ghali affirmed the importance of the Soviet role after establishing a final solution in the Middle East. He said that the final solution requires the presence [wujud] of the two superpowers. If we check the Camp David agreements, we find a frank reference to a Soviet presence [wujud Sovyati] at a later stage.

On the Arabs' return to Egypt, Ghali said that Egypt welcomes the Arab world. There are contacts on the summit level and the military and diplomatic levels.

Referring to Egypt's stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war, Ghali said: We give Iraq diplomatic, political, and military support. We have sold weapons to Iraq but there are no Egyptian forces fighting there.

Sudanese Newspaper Interviews Abu Ghazalah

NC300838 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has declared that units from the Sudanese and Egyptian armies will conduct joint exercises next November for raising the fighting standards of Army personnel.

He added that within the framework of the military integration plans, the armament systems and the training and education techniques in the various institutes will be made uniform so as to organize similar formations and units for both armies.

Today, in a statement to the Sudanese newspaper ASH-SAHAFAH, Abu Ghazalah added that it is within the context of these plans that we can realize the military integration on a sound basis that would prevent any shortcomings.

He pointed out that, for instance, officers from either country could be delegated to the Egyptian or Sudanese Armies.

Abu Ghazalah said also that further consultations will take place between him and the Sudanese officials during his visit to Sudan next month on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the May revolution, with the aim of strengthening the military integration between Egypt and Sudan.

Official Spokesman on Israeli Settlement Policy

NC190741 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0010 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA) — A Foreign Ministry official spokesman has said in Cairo that Egypt denounced the policy of building or expansion of settlements since the very beginning, warned against this danger, and is still repeating its calls for the suspension of these measures which hamper the the peace process.

The official spokesman added that Egypt is surprised that the celebration of the anniversary of the establishment of Israel is being coupled with a statement by the Israeli prime minister at the Knesset announcing the inauguration of a settlement on Arab land near the Arab town of Nabulus.

The spokesman further said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will make a statement to the People's Assembly in which he will reaffirm Egypt's official and declared stance about the illegality of building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza in a manner that blatantly contravenes international law, the Geneva agreements, the UN resolutions, and the text and spirit of Camp David.

The official spokesman affirmed that Israel is defying and rejecting all the international laws and resolutions.

Iranian Battle Losses Reported 18-19 April

Communique No 1,066

JN191602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) — The Armed Forces General Command has stated that six Iranians were killed in the operational theaters during the past 24 hours.

Military Communique No 1,066 issued by the General Command this evening stated that three of the above were killed in the northern sector, two in the central sector, and one east of Basra. The communique also said that two hardware stockpiles were destroyed in the Maysan operational theater by setting fire to them. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,066 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With strong men who are aware of the meaning of honor, dignity, loftiness, and sacrifice, our armed forces pursue their valiant activities against the forces of the vicious and suspect Khomeyniite regime. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units attacked an enemy vehicle, carrying personnel, opposite its positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, hit it, and killed three.

2. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite one of our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield.Our unit struck it with its weapons, killing two and destroying one hardware stockpile and one observation post.

3. One was killed east of Basra.

4. Two hardware stockpiles were destroyed in the Maysan operational theater after setting fire to them.

5. The rancorous enemy today shelled Basra and its outskirts, causing some damage to some civilian installations in the city.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 April 1983

Islamic Committee Chairman To Contact Iran

JN191930 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) — The Peace and Reconciliation Committee entrusted its chairman, Shaykh Dr Ma'ruf ad-Dawalibi, to hold contacts with officials in Iraq and Iran to bring about a cease-fire between the two countries as the first step toward peace between them.

The committee stems from a meeting of the Popular Islamic Conference, where more than 300 Muslim clergymen and leading intellectuals of various sects from all over the world participated. The meeting ended here 2 days ago.

Dr ad-Dawalibi said that he will contact the brother Iranian officials to set a date for the committee to visit Iran.

In a statement to INA, he explained that Iraq, which announced yesterday its complete acceptance of the conference's resolution on ending the war and establishing peace, has offered all facilities to render the committee's work a success and to achieve reconciliation. He added that the committee's mission is to obtain the agreement of the Iranian brothers.

Dr ad-Dawalibi expressed the hope that the committee's mission will be crowned with success to halt the shedding of Muslim blood and to raise the banner of Islam high in the region in light of the noble teachings of Islam.

Committee Contacts Iranian Official

JN201056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA) — A committee formed by the Popular Islamic Conference recently held in Baghdad has expressed to the Iranian Government its desire to visit Tehran and meet with Iranian representatives. The Peace and Reconciliation Committee Chairman Dr Ma'ruf ad-Dawalibi today conveyed a message in this regard to the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad [as received].

The message reads: In view of the honorable scholars' unanimous decision to urgently seek an end to this war and establish peace based on justice and right, the conference formed the Peace and Reconciliation Committee to immediately and swiftly contact the leaders of the two countries—before the departure of the committee members to their respective countries—for the sake of achieving an immediate halt to the fighting and establishing peace.

The message points out that the Iraqi Government has approved the conference resolutions and expressed its readiness to cooperate with the committee and put an end to the infighting in compliance with Koranic teachings.

President Ready To Cooperate on Oil Slick

JN191704 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received a written message from his brother His Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on fraternal relations between the two countries and the efforts exerted recently in dealing with the flow of Iranian oil into the Arab Gulf waters.

The message was delivered to President Saddam Husayn by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, personal envoy of Saudi King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to President Saddam Husayn, and minister of education, when President Saddam Husayn received him at noon today.

President Saddam Husayn stressed to the envoy of His Majesty King Fahd Iraq's concern over the Iranian oil slick and that this concern stems from Iraq's eagerness to safeguard the interests of the brothers in the Arab Gulf in spite of the war of aggression which the rancorous Iranian regime is waging against Iraq, and

its deliberate attempts to harm Iraqi economic installations in the Arab Gulf area or at sea.

President Saddam Husayn reaffirmed Iraq's complete readiness to cooperate with its brothers in the Arab Gulf countries and to deal with this problem on sound bases that would serve the basic interests of all concerned parties, and in such a manner that would prevent the Iranian regime from exploiting the attempts to deal with this problem, to violate international laws and norms that regulate the settlement of such problems, and harm Iraq's security and safety.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that when dealing with this problem, solutions must be found to prevent its recurrence as a result of the war that Iran is waging against Iraq, and which it insists on pursuing in violation of the will of the peoples in the region and their vital interests of security, stability, and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im, head of the President's Office.

Saudi King's Envoy Leaves Baghdad 19 April

JN191848 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuawytir, Saudi minister of education and personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from his brother His Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, left Baghdad for home this afternoon at the end of a short visit to Iraq.

The Saudi envoy was seen off at the airport by Education Minister 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, the chief of protocol, the director of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Omani Minister Arrives With Message for King

JN191636 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Amman this evening on a brief visit to Jordan during which he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman. In a statement to the JNA correspondent, Al-'Alawi said the message deals with the talks which His Majesty Sultan Qabus held during his recent visit to the United States and the United Kingdom. He added: Jordanian-Omani coordination, which is sponsored by the two monarchs, is an urgent necessity dictated by the difficult circumstances being experienced by the Arab nation and the developments witnessed by the region.

Al-'Alawi was met at Amman airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

King Receives Envoy, Message

JN191830 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received a message from Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. The message was conveyed to his majesty by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, during an audience at An-Nadwa Palace this evening.

AR-RA'Y Interviews Lebanese Defense Minister

JN200915 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 APR 83 pp 1, 19

['Abdallah al-'Utum dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Lebanese Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri has said: During my meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, I had the opportunity to convey an oral message from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in which he expresses his great appreciation to the Jordanian king for his good qualities and great wisdom.

Khuri added: I felt King Husayn's great willingness to help and his great love for Lebanon, its people, and president. His majesty stressed Jordan's support for Lebanon and its readiness to provide it with the material and moral support it needs.

Khuri said that the king gave instructions for the Lebanese Army to be supplied with a quantity of used Jordanian armor [aliyat] and for the Lebanese security forces to also be supplied with a quantity of armor [aliyat] to help Lebanon rebuild its forces for the maintenance of its security.

Khuri added that it was agreed that Jordan will receive Lebanese officers and NCO's for military training courses. It will also receive technical crews for training courses.

Khuri said that Jordan expressed its readiness to begin cooperation between the Jordanian and Lebanese military establishments in all preparation and training fields.

In this exclusive statement to AR-RA'Y, the Lebanese defense minister said that the current contacts and negotiations are centered on the Israeli presence in Lebanon. These negotiations, he said, have taken several positive steps. They have solved some difficult problems, but other problems remain unsolved.

The Lebanese minister said that Lebanon will accept nothing short of seeing its flag flying throughout Lebanese territory. He said that the political leadership headed by Shaykh Amin al-Jummayil insists on the withdrawal of the last non-Lebanese soldier from Lebanese territory and on the removal of all military bases from Lebanese soil. The minister described the Lebanese Army as progressive, and a security army with military traditions that bar autocratic and repressive measures. He said the Lebanese military establishment abhores hatred, rancor, and injustice.

Khuri denied that the Lebanese Army had carried out repressive operations against the Palestinians in Lebanon, because, he said, the army is not deployed over all Lebanese territories. He also said that the Lebanese Government has proved its cooperation, fairness, and desire to guarantee security for residents on Lebanese territory. He said the attacks on certain Palestinians in Lebanon were no different from the attacks on other areas such as the U.S. Embassy incident.

The minister said that the investigation into the Sabra and Shatila massacres was delayed, because the Lebanese authority was unable to establish its sovereignty over the whole of Lebanon.

The minister said that the Lebanese Army, which has competently carried out the Greater Beirut operation, was able to deal with those factions that are still carrying arms on Lebanese territory.

Minister Khuri described the new national service law as a new step toward fulfilling a Lebanese desire to restore normal life to Lebanon under the protection of the law.

Al-Qasim Interview on PLO, Withdrawals

NC191305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Interview with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim by NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY Reporter in Amman — recorded]

[Text] [Question unheard]

[Answer] In fact, Jordan's position toward Lebanon has been, perhaps, one of the clearest attitudes since Lebanon's ordeal began. We have always said that it is imperative that Lebanon be given all opportunities to defend its independence and its

existence as a strong Arab state in the Arab body. When I say giving Lebanon all aid, we mean that it is imperative that we contribute the maximum to the effort aimed at depriving Israel from finding a justification to remain on Lebanese territory. However, when it comes to Jordan and to its discussions with the PLO, then this is basically a distinguished issue [qadiyyah mummayyazah] between the two sides. Jordan's concern was that we should find the means guaranteeing the liberation of the territory, that is, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. At the same time, we should ensure giving our kinfolk in the occupied territories the opportunity to remain and stay in their country. We stand opposed to any possibility of the evacuation of these people from their lands and from their homes.

Naturally, regarding the relationship between Lebanon and Jordan, this relationship has a certain background. This relationship emerged at the two countries' independence. Jordan has been, still is, and will always be the supporter of the brothers in Lebanon in helping them recover all the potentials that strengthen this country against the challenges that Lebanon is facing.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister: Is it possible for the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations to resume soon?

[Answer] Naturally, Jordan had a joint and agreed visualization with the PLO. However, a change occurred in the Palestinian-position. We in Jordan still adhere to the Rabat [summit conference] resolutions which affirm that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people], and that the PLO is concerned primarilywith working to recover the Palestinians' rights. Therefore, we will support the course chosen by the PLO within the limits of our potentials as a country, the same as the other Arab League countries.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, please allow me to ask you the last question. Do you believe that, if the Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon following the current negotiations, the withdrawal of the Syrian Army and the Palestinian armed forces from the remaining Lebanese territory will be easy?

[Answer] I believe that we have heard several times that the Syrian forces and the resistance forces stand prepared to respond to Lebanon's request to withdraw simultaneously with the [recording interrupted at this point].

Walid Junblatt Arrives for Private Visit

JN200709 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 20 APR 83 p 1

[Text] SAWT ASH-SHA'B has learned that Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party, had arrived in Amman on a short private visit to Jordan.

AFP Reports Further on U.S. Embassy Bombing

NC191254 Paris AFP in English 1239 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 19 (AFP) — At least 61 people may have died in yesterday's bomb blast at the U.S. Embassy, according to various revised estimates today of the dead and missing.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said today that Lebanese authorities have some indications that may help identify those responsible for the attack, and warned that further attacks might be carried out. He did not elaborate.

Robert Dillon, the U.S. ambassador, said at a press conference that up to 48 members of the embassy staff, 40 of them Lebanese, were still missing.

"There are seven confirmed American dead and there are still eight missing," he said. "We presume that they are dead. Among the Lebanese staff there are six confirmed dead and as many as 40 missing."

Mr Dillon did not comment directly on Mr al-Wazzan's assertion that the authorities had clues that might lead them to those responsible for the attack, claimed yesterday by three separate organizations.

"We have no information about the identity of the authors of the explosion," he said. "We are investigating now. We are in touch with the Lebanese authorities. We have as yet no information to offer."

Mr Dillon was also cautious in his account of how the bombing had been carried out.

"One has to be careful," he said, adding that witnesses had reported that "a large van, filled with explosives, pushed its way to that area ... I think many of you heard that two eyewitnesses saw a van very heavily loaded .... There is a report that the driver was killed. I know of no arrest."

Lebanese experts said the explosion came from a vehicle, probably a van, containing 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of a substance known as Hexogen. That material is four times as powerful as TNT.

The experts believe the blast was set off by remote control as the van was in front of the embassy's visa section. It was not known if the driver, who was apparently killed by the blast, had known of the van's contents.

There was no immediate explanation of Mr al-Wazzan's warning that attacks may be planned on other targets. But several other embassies, notably the nearby French embassy, tightened security considerably.

Karami, Al-Wazir Criticize U.S. Policy

NC190733 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami yesterday criticized the U.S. role in Lebanon. He described the U.S. stand as being more vague now. He considered what is happening now as a charade to gain time.

Karami requested the Lebanese authrorities to take an interest in the Palestinians and to treat them according to the existing agreements.

Palestinian official Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] has attacked the U.S. Administration saying it wants to impose its plan on the area. During a tour of the armed Palestinians in the Al-Biqa' area of Lebanon, Abu Jihad emphasized that the Palestinian organization will increase escalation of the military operations behind the Israeli lines. This is in accordance with what the military bureau, which is under Abu Jihad, said.

Franjiyah, Karami on U.S. Embassy Explosion

NC191340 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah has denounced the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, prayed for mercy for the souls of the innocent victims, and wished the wounded a quick recovery. This came in the course of the press meeting which he held in his palace in Zgharta this morning.

Former President Franjiyah said: I strongly denounce and condemn this cowardly action which was directed against innocent persons and which aimed at assassinating the good efforts which are being exerted to save Lebanon from its ordeal and to restore security and stability in it. Franjiyah accused Israel of planning this operation which is similr to the King David Hotel operation [in Jerusalem] in 1947. Franjiyah conveyed his condolences to the American people and to President Reagan through the U.S. ambassador in Beirut, whom he congratulated on his escape. He also praised the initiative of President al-Jumayyil, who expressed the feelings of all the Lebanese as soon as he heard about the tragic news.

Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami has commented on the U.S. Embassy explosion. Our correspondent in Tripoli has supplied us with Karami's comments:

[Begin Karami recording] Who of us does not denounce these methods, the victims of which are [Lebanese] citizens and others, particularly now that Lebanon has entered its 9th year of the whirlpool of violence and terrorism? People abroad express their wrath and opposition to this terrorism. However, it is we who feel the pain and pay the price because what happens is taking place on our land. Therefore, we address ourselves to the United States first to convey our condolences to President Reagan, the American people, and the relatives of the victims, and second to draw the Americans' attention to the real causes that led to these calamities and were crowned by the Israeli enemy's occupation of our sacred land. We address ourselves to them to ask them

again and again to deal with these causes in a practical and serious way. Otherwise, we will not emerge from this painful reality. No just and useful solution has yet been found to uphold our rights and safeguard our sovereignty.

The negotiations are still turning in a vicious circle. Time is passing and the U.S. role and the credibility of this superpower are in the balance. We wish them to find the right exit and accept an international conference in which all concerned would participate because their monopolization of the solution will not produce the desired results. [end recording]

Justice Minister Chairs Meeting on Embassy Blast
NC191420 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Minister of Justice and Information Roger Shaykhani chaired a meeting this morning that was attended by Public Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation Shaykh Camille Ja'Ja' and other public prosecutors in charge of investigating the U.S. Embassy explosion.

Minister Shaykhani said that the meeting was aimed at speeding up the current investigations and at seriously seeking to reveal the culprits and bring them to court. He said that the investigators are continuously providing him with results

At the end of the meeting at noon today, Minister Shaykhani, the Public Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation, and a number of security personnel went to the American Embassy where he visited U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon and promised to provide him with information as soon as it becomes available. After that, Minister Shaykhani and his aides inspected the site of the explosion. He said that a number of people are being interrogated with the aim of obtaining evidence that might help uncover the culprits.

QNA: Salam Says U.S. Policy Led to Explosion
GF191358 Doha QNA in Arabic 0908 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (QNA) — Former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam stated that the United States' closing doors to the moderate and reasonable people in the Arab world and Lebanon has opened wide the doors to elements of evil who can reach them as well as us.

Commenting on the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut he said to AL-ITTIHAD newspaper published in Abu Dhabi today: We all denounce and reject such acts and are sorry for them. However, at the same time that we sympathize with the Americans for their casualties, we affirm that it is the U.S. policy in the region and its closing doors to the moderate and reasonable people of judgment in the Arab world which provided the opportunity for extremists to exploit the situation.

Al-Jumayyil Meets With Habib 19 April
NC192125 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib this afternoon discussed the pending points in the tripartite talks. Ambassador Habib again carried to Israel this evening Lebanon's clear, frank, and well-known stance on these points. Habib is expected to return to Beirut tomorrow to brief Lebanese officials on the latest Israeli position. Habib held a lengthy meeting with Foreign Minister Salim this morning. He left for Israel this evening. He will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir this morning, according to Israeli radio.

Habib Leaves for Israel
NC191508 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib left Beirut airport at 1615 today for Israel for talks with Israeli officials on the withdrawals of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Delegation Assesses 19 Apr Tripartite Talks
NC192134 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The political operations room staff and the Lebanese negotiating team held a meeting in the Republican Palace this evening to assess the results of today's negotiations. A lack of time at the negotiations prevented the Lebanese delegation from discussing the basic points after making progress in moving certain less important points. The Lebanse officials are expecting that the forthcoming rounds of talks will witness an intensive U.S. move to give new momentum to the negotaitions to enable the negotiators to make progress in solving a number of other pending points.

Tuwayni Warns Against Delay in Talks With Israel
NC200748 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] In an interview with Lebanese television last night, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni affirmed that U.S. credibility, power, and position lie in its international presence. He said: Those who carried out the embassy bombing believe that a superpower like the United States will leave the Lebanese arena or the Middle East because of such a terrorist act. This would mean that the United States would abandon its international role and responsibility. This is a very naive assumption.

Tuwayni pointed out that Lebanon expects the United States to ensure that the negotiations will not be prolonged further. He said that if the United States had insisted on reaching an early result, the negotiations would not have become more difficult.

Tuwayni noted that the Israeli demands are increasing and that the prolongation of the negotiations enables positions to be changed and creates new situations which make agreement on what was possible 2 or 3 weeks ago more difficult now.

Summing up the situation, Tuwayni affirmed the need for a speedy solution. He expressed the belief that the U.S. side has reached the same conclusion.

Antiaircraft Fire Opened On Unidentified Planes
NC200624 Beirut Domestic Service in Aabic 0530 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Aircraft [not further identified] flew over the capital yesterday afternoon. In addition, security sources said that antiaircraft fire was opened at unidentified aircraft which violated the airspace over Tripoli and northern Lebanon yesterday afternoon.

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Army To Receive Training, Tanks From Jordan
NC200710 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri and his delegation will hold the last round of talks with the Jordanian side led by Jordanian Armed Forces Commander Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir at the Jordanian Armed Forces headquarters this morning. The two sides will appraise the outcome of the talks held since the arrival of the Lebanese delegation in Amman, especially on the military level. They will also agree on a date for the delivery of the tanks which Jordan will give as a gift to Lebanon.

The two sides will also discuss the possibility of introducing modification to these tanks. They will also agree on training courses to be given to Lebanese officers and will set a date for some Jordanian officer musicians to go to Lebanon to improve and develop the Lebanese Army bands.

Press Comments on U.S. Embassy Explosion
NC191010 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Press Review]

[Excerpts] Today's newspapers focus their attention on yesterday's explosion at the American Embassy in Beirut — an explosion that was directed against the homeland's security and stability and against the lives of its sons.

The papers unanimously agree that the cowardly action was also aimed at striking at the tripartite negotiations underway to prove the failure of the U.S. initiative and its inability to achieve security in Beirut — even within the sanctuary of the American Embassy.

The depraved operation came at a time when the homeland was preoccupied with its sons joining the national military service to emphasize and insist on the protection of the homeland's freedom and independence.

There have been conflicting press reports on the number of dead and wounded. The papers have said this number has ranged between 30 and 40 dead and between 70 and 100 wounded.

In this respect, AN-NAHAR says: While U.S. Presidential envoy Ambassador Habib continued his talks yesterday in the B'abda Palace in an attempt to stimulate the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations on the eve of today's 31st round in Netanya, The American Embassy building in 'Ayn al-Muraysah was being subjected to an explosion — the largest one since the blowing up of the Iraqi Embassy.

The paper adds: This action offers extensive service to, and perhaps it has served, all those who would be harmed by the return of peace to Lebanon and by the reinstatement of independence, sovereignty, and unity. It also serves those who are still seeking — through all means and ways — to continue to hold Lebanon for ransom to achieve demands, to hold Lebanon for ransom as a substitute for demands that are difficult to meet, or to achieve old and hidden interests and ambitions.

In commenting on the explosion at the American Embassy, and quoting well-informed sources, AS-SAFIR opines that there is a deliberate attempt to breach the security of legitimacy within the projected greater Beirut, which is regarded as the model security project.

The paper adds that there are political dimensions to the explosion at the embassy in Beirut — dimensions that are basically connected with the efforts that are being exerted by U.S. President Reagan to prompt Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

AL-ANWAR says: Whether the explosion at the American Embassy was a suicidal operation or a well-thought-out one, its objective remains the same. This is an objective of challenging U.S. security, even within the embassy, and despite the presence of the Marines and of units of the U.S. Fleet deployed in the Lebanese territorial waters off Beirut.

Lebanon has grown accustomed to such operations for 8 years, because buildings, establishments, and various centers have been blown up. However, to the United States, such operations are considered a different matter at a time when the U.S. Administration is exerting all its efforts to ensure the withdrawal of foreign armed forces from Lebanese territory. The United States has also affirmed that it will continue this task to the end, even if the negotiations underway are late in achieving positive results.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BAYRAQ determines that the explosion was aimed at blowing up stability in Lebanon.

The paper affirms that what has happened will not weaken morale or determination and will not cast doubt on the capability of the government or on the army's fitness. On the contrary, the opposite has been reflected by the citizens' emotions, viewpoints, and strength in confronting all the things that could jeopardize Lebanon's unity, loftiness, and the coherence of its front as well as Lebanon's strength, security, and stability.

In another article, the newspaper AL-BAYRAQ says: Lebanon has decided to face the raging storms and to withstand them. Lebanon's fate is to confront all emergencies with added steadfastness, patience, and endurance. What has happened in the American Embassy building was nothing but a painful blow directed against — first, the process of Lebanese security in greater Beirut; second, the U.S. initiative for Lebanon; and third, the role of the multinational force. However, despite this strong shock, Lebanon — its commands, leaderships,and influential personages — yesterday condemned and denounced this incident and renewed the pledge to stand fast and to continue with the adventure-salvation march.

Finally, the newspaper AL-'AMAL says: A tremendous explosion rocked the American Embassy in Beirut yesterday, while the embassy's consular section was crammed with employees and visa applicants most of whom were Lebanese nationals. This explosion has reaffirmed, to the world, to friends, and those who hesitate to put their fingers on wounds, that international terrorism — and Lebanon was turned into a stage for this terrorism throughout the years of its ordeal — is still capable of undermining any efforts that have as their objective the achievement of peace here, and in the world, and that the danger of this terrorism exists and continues. It has become imperative that those concerned quickly take the initiative to eradicate this terrorism and, consequently, end the aggravated Lebanese crisis.

Military Intelligence Chief Reportedly in Moscow

LD191629 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1518 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Moscow, 19 Apr (KUNA) — Informed sources stated here today that the head of Syrian military intelligence, Ali Duba is in the Soviet Union heading a high-level military delegation.

The sources, who refused to give their identity, told KUNA that it is believed that one of the main reasons for Duba's visit, which is being kept secret, is the increasing tension between Syria and Israel and the raising of the state of alert of the forces of both sides in the Al-Biqa' Valley and north Lebanon.

Diplomatic sources here, closely connected with this agency, have been unable to confirm whether Duba and the accompanying delegation have held any talks with Soviet officials.

They stated that "it is probable" that the delegation met senior (?Soviet) military officials and discussed with them "the military situation in the region, and the means needed to restrain the Israeli aggressor— especially after the escalation of its military harassments of Syrian and Palestinian forces after the Israeli-Lebanese-American negotiations floundered, and after the failure of Washington's efforts to drag Jordan into the negotiations" on the basis of President Reagan's plan to settle the Middle East crisis.

The sources did not mention when the Syrian delegation arrived, and there are as yet no further details about the nature of the visit.

Damascus Cites Beirut Daily on Karami Interview

JN200706 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami has stated that the massing of Israeli troops in the Al-Biqa' region to strike at Syria is irrefutable evidence demonstrating Israel's designs and intentions against the region.

In an interview with the Beirut Daily ASH-SHARQ, Karami said that Syria is the only force capable of rescuing Lebanon from the plot that aims at drowning and liquidating it in the Camp David guagmire. He stressed the need for coordination, planning, and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon to ward off this danger. He voiced his support for a popular uprising to confront the Zionist occupation in Lebanon, adding that this is the only way to terminate the occupation.

In his interview with ASH-SHARQ, Karami expressed his skepticism over U.S. credibility, stressing that the salvation of Lebanon can only be attained by the Lebanese.

Syrian, USSR Peace Councils Issue Statement

JN191932 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] A joint statement issued by the National Council of Peace Partisans in Syria and the USSR Committee for the Defense of Peace has condemned the Camp David policy and the U.S. imperialist plots that are being hatched against Syria and the Arab people. The statement stressed the determination of the two sides to continue the joint struggle to achieve a just peace in the region.

Syria, YAR Sign Cooperation Agreement

JN191524 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 19 Apr (SANA) — An economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement was signed here today between Syria and the YAR. Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, signed for the Syrian side, and 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, the YAR ambassador in Damascus, signed for the YAR side.

The agreement covers the promotion of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries, the provision of training for technicians, participation in the scientific and technical seminars held in the two countries, and the exchange of experts and economists.

A joint ministerial committee will be formed to take care of and promote joint cooperation between the two countries.

Tripartite Negotiations Continue in Netanya

19 April Talks

TA191249 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. special envoy Morris Draper is leading the American delegation to today's tripartite talks in Netanya. The talks opened with expressions of condolence by the delegations over yesterday's bomb explosion at the American Embassy in Beirut. With more on the talks, reporter Vivian Roysten:

[Begin recording] [Roysten] The 31st tripartite, on-again off-again talks begin in Netanya under the grim shadow of yesterday's explosion at the American Embassy in Beirut. Upon his arrival, chief U.S. negotiator Morris Draper said he felt good. His reaction to the explosion:

[Draper] We are going to make progress on these talks. We are very determined to move ahead as rapidly as possible to the conclusion of the talks.

[Roysten] Do you think that it will affect the talks?

[Draper] It just makes us all the more determined to press on.

[Roysten] Before the plenary began, I asked Dr David Kimche, head of the Israeli delegation, what was his reaction to yesterday's explosion?

[Kimche] I think we are determined to carry on as before, but it does prove that there is still a danger of terrorism in Lebanon, and this is what we have been saying all along.

[Roysten] At the commencing of the plenary session Dr Kimche expressed Israel's outrage and sorrow over the attack on the U.S. Embassy. He offered condolences to the families of the victims, both American and Lebanese. Kimche went on to say that the radical elements which were responsible for yesterday's bombing want to destabilize Lebanon and halt the peace process, but it will only strengthen our resolve to reach an agreement.

Avi Pazner, Israel's spokesman, continued:

[Pazner] These radical elements want to reestablish in Beirut the reign of terror, and also want the south of Lebanon to be a region from where terror will again be reactivated against the State of Israel.

[Roysten] After 1 and 1/2 hours of full plenary, the political and military subcommittees met. As the delegations went for lunch, Ambassador Antoine Fattal told me he was happy with this morning's progress but was not prepared to comment on the effect of the explosion on the talks. This is Vivian Roysten in Netanya. [end recording]

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ATTN JORDAN AAMM
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LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS 19 APRIL

More on 19 April Talks

TA191603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The talks in Netanya resumed today under the heavy clouds of the explosion in the U.S. Embassy building in Beirut. All the delegations declared that they are determined to pursue the negotiations and reach an agreement [heskem] soon. Here is a report from Netanya by our correspondent Me'ir Einstein:

[Begin recording] [Einstein] The round of talks in Netanya today began in the wake of the explosion yesterday at the U.S. Embassy compound in Beirut. Delegation heads Draper, Kimche,and Fattal all condemned the act, saying that their governments are determined to continue their efforts to reach an agreement as soon as possible. Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, the spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, quoted Fattal as saying that terrorism is a short-term fight, but in the long term it is ineffective and will not prevent people of goodwill from achieving their goal.

[As-Sayigh] The head of the Lebanese delegation said that terrorism is an easy weapon, but not efficient in the long run, and doesn't keep people of goodwill from reaching their aim.

[Einstein] After the plenary session, in which the announcement was made that the contacts would continue with double momentum, the delegation members split up to take up the practical work. This was conducted through two committees — one military and one political — and this is what Israeli delegation spokesman Avi Pazner reported on the content of their deliberations.

[Pazner] The military committee today discussed the precise line of the security zone, as well as the question of the integration of the local forces into the Lebanese Army. We again experienced the feeling today that progress has been made in those talks, and we hope that this will continue in Khaldah on Thursday, too.

[Einstein] When you discuss a precise line, has agreement [haskama] been reached on this matter?

[Pazner] Look, the exact line includes a lot of details, and the committee members have not yet completed talking about all of them. In the end we will no doubt reach agreement [haskama] on this matter, too.

[Question] In talking about the integration of the local forces, are you actually talking about the forces which are currently commanded by Sa'd Haddad? Is this part of the discussion of Sa'd Haddad's status?

[Answer] No. This is not part of the discussion of Sa'd Haddad's status. There are no differences of opinion between us and the Lebanese regarding the fact that the local forces should constitute part of the Lebanese Army. The questions that were raised today are basically technical questions on how this will be done, who will form part of that army, and so on. Major Haddad's status was not discussed in the talks today.

[Einstein] Another matter that was discussed today was the questions pertaining to the establishment of the liaison offices in

Lebanon and Israel after the desired agreement [heskem] is reached. Today, too, we heard from the spokesmen that progress was made in the talks, but on the other hand it should be emphasized that sources in the Lebanese delegation said that there still remain quite a few obstacles on the road to reaching an agreement.

The next round of talks will be held this Thursday in Khaldah.

Habib Leaves for Beirut

TA201137 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1132 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Philip Habib is leaving for Beirut, after talking with the foreign minister in Jerusalem. Minister Shamir asked him to try and convince the Lebanese president to accept Israel's demand that Major Haddad be given a command post in southern Lebanon.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Minister Shamir reiterated Israel's sorrow over the explosion in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, and emphasized that it only reinforced the Israeli demand for effective and reliable security arrangements.

Philip Habib spoke at length about the explosion, destruction,and death. It emerged during the talk that among the dead is a man who had arrived a day earlier to assist Habib in his job.

Concern Voiced Over Reagan Message to Syria

TA200631 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Apr 83 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Excerpts] Israel is to seek "clarifications" from the U.S. about President Ronald Reagan's recent letter to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad urging negotiations for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israeli policy-makers are plainly disturbed by the timing and the tenor of the letter. Their anxieties have not been entirely allayed by assurances from Washington officials that the letter merely reiterated long-standing American policy.

First word of Reagan's letter was published on the weekend by the official Syrian news agency. It cited Reagan as writing that the U.S. and Syria share the "common goal of a negotiated peace settlement," and said that Reagan dwelt on the fact that UN Security Council resolution 242 requires withdrawal by Israel on all fronts.

Israel applied its law and administration to the Golan Heights in December 1981, thereby effectively annexing the territory.

U.S. officials confirmed that Reagan had written to Al-Asad on the occasion of Syria's independence day, but they sought to play down the significance of the move.

Despite this assessment, Jerusalem is uneasy about the Reagan letter. The belief apparently is that Washington, having failed to bring Jordan's King Husayn into negotiations about the West Bank, might now float the idea of expanding the peace talks to embrace the Golan issue. This inevitably would mean more dispute between Israel and the U.S., given their sharply opposing views on the future of the Golan Heights.

Shamir Comments

TA191827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the message President Reagan sent this week to Syrian President al-Asad was intended to establish an atmosphere of goodwill between Washington and Damascus in anticipation of the expected negotiations on the removal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. Minister Shamir voiced this opinion at the Cabinet session in reaction to the ramifications caused by Reagan's statements.

In a congratulatory message on Syria's national holiday, Reagan announced that the United States favors the return of territories as part of peace agreements, and this includes the Golan Heights.

Jerusalem Arabic Sees Syria Behind Beirut Explosion

JN191542 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 19 Apr 83

["Observation" by Salim 'Anbari]

[Text] Once again, tragic events prove the Middle East region's urgent need for peace. And once again, the voices of the leaders of the Western world are heard denouncing violence and terrorism and calling for continued efforts to achieve peace.

We say the Western world because we have not heard up to this moment a single denunciation from any of the leaders of the Eastern bloc concerning the criminal act in Beirut, in which scores have been killed or wounded as a result of the booby-trapped car explosion near the U.S. Embassy.

While it is being said that a fanatic Muslim group has claimed responsibility for this explosion, we cannot but ask: Which side is really interested in the continuation of terrorism and violence in Lebanon? Whoever reviews the list of sides which have a presence in Lebanon and influence in Lebanese affairs is bound to reach the conclusion that the only side now supervising terrorism and violence in Lebanon is Syria, because it is the only side which wants to remain in Lebanon and has no scruples about it.

Syria is the one sponsoring the terrorist organizations and supervising the acts of terrorism in Lebanon, because it has an interest in that. For the sake of revolutionism and camouflage, Syria speaks about peace whenever circumstances call for speaking about peace, such as the circumstances in Beirut yesterday.

U.S. President Reagan has described the bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut as a mean and cowardly act. He added that

this aggression will not prevent the United States from pursuing its peaceful aims in the region and that orders were given to U.S. envoys Habib and Draper to continue the work to make all foreign sides pull out their forces from Lebanon. The chairman of the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee has affirmed that this terrorist act will not force the United States out of Lebanon, but this mean and cowardly terrorist act is about to change the U.S. view of the situation in Lebanon and the dimensions of the security responsibility which the Lebanese official authorities can assume.

This mean and cowardly terrorist act has, in addition to the loss of life and the material damage, revealed the great difficulty in obtaining the approval of all sides to withdraw their forces from Lebanon. If Israel has already defined its position and set forth its conditions to the Lebanese and Americans participating in the talks, President al-Asad is still waiting and simply making general statements. Whenever there are signs of agreement between Israel and Lebanon, Syria carries out what it deems essential to prevent an agreement.

At any rate, the perpetrators of this cowardly terrorist game will sooner or later realize that their game cannot possibly succeed in resisting the peace current, just as it has not succeeded in the past in obstructing and foiling the peace process between Egypt and Israel.

Disagreements Mark 19 Apr Cabinet Session

TA191750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] No political resolutions were adopted at today's Cabinet session. However, the opinions of the participants became sharper and were explained regarding issues that have long remained topical: the talks with Lebanon, Major Sa'd Haddad's status, and relations with the United States.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at the meeting that the explosion in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut proves the justness of Israel's demands [derishoteha] for the appropriate security arrangements. He said that terrorism still reigns in Lebanon. Meanwhile, the prime minister sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, expressing Israel's deep sorrow over the explosion that occurred in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

Ministers Uzan and Ben-Porat did not raise their proposal that the IDF withdraw to the Al-'Awwali river in order to limit the number of casualties among the soldiers and also to thus express Israel's dismay over the continuation of the negotiations. According to Minister Uzan's associates, the defense minister asked that the proposal not be raised because the parties are close to an agreement and this could weaken Israel in the negotiations. The defense minister's associates, on the other hand, reacted to these reports saying that this is totally unfounded. Although this is the minister's professed opinion, he nonetheless never asked Ministers Uzan and Ben-Porat anything.

According to the foreign minister, the obstacles in the negotiations are the following: Maj Sa'd Haddad's status in the security arrangements in southern Lebanon, the continued UNIFIL presence, and the Israeli liaison office in Beirut.

Regarding Haddad, Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said things that had not been said before. According to some of his colleagues, he said that Israel has no moral commitment toward Haddad. He said that Israel created him and today it must adopt resolutions only in accordance with its security requirements. The prime minister rejected these statements and some ministers argued that this is not the Cabinet's position.

In response to a suggestion raised by Minister Ari'el Sharon that the Cabinet hold a debate on strengthening Haddad's forces, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said steps are actually begin taken in that direction. The prime minister said that a debate will be held on this subject at the appropriate committee.

There were exchanges at the meeting today between Minister Moda'i, the defense minister, and the prime minister. The energy minister criticized the fact that the proposed arrangements with Lebanon would not make it possible for Israel to pursue terrorists who would enter Israel through Lebanon. Arens reacted by saying that even if terrorist squads come from Jordan or Egypt, Israel has no arrangement whereby it could pursue them into those countries. The prime minister interrupted and said that these situations cannot at all be compared to each other because there is still no central government in Lebanon that is strong, nor is there an army that could prevent the infiltration of terrorists, as is the case in Jordan and Egypt.

On another matter, the defense minister reported on the U.S. Administration's decision to provide Israel with the technological information necessary for the planning of the wing and flight control systems of the Lavi aircraft.

Finally, on the ceremony of the conversion of the Har Berkha settlement near Nabulus into a civilian settlement, Simha Ehrlich criticized David Levi for dedicating the place. According to the acting prime minister, it was decided to determine the timing and circumstances of this conversion at the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs.

David Levi, who was absent from the session because he represented the government at the ceremony of the cornerstone laying for the IDF educational institution in the Galilee, believes that everything was known in advance and that anyone who tries to pretend that he did not know about it today should explain where he was the last few weeks when the Information Center published announcements on the scheduled ceremony. Minister Levi's confidants are furious with the fact that his colleagues who had planned to come to the ceremony found all sorts of excuses to be absent. One of them told me: These are the hawks who refused to wet their wings. Once the Cabinet adopted the resolution to convert eight Nahal footholds into civilian settlements, as brought by Defense Minister Moshe Arens in person, the ministers should have fulfilled their promise, and this was taken care of by Construction Minister David Levi. This is all from the Cabinet session today.

Sharon Warning on Syrians

TA191618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] At today's Cabinet session, Minister Ari'el Sharon warned about the fact that no parallel negotiations were being conducted with the Syrians about their departure. Minister Sharon said that in the territory under their rule in Lebanon, the Syrians had established local forces under their rule. They had equipped and armed these forces and appointed commanders who had in the past been officers in the Lebanese Army. Through this force, Sharon said, they intend in the future to control various regions of that country.

Peres Criticizes Likud Policy on U.S., Lebanon

TA161823 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1805 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 16 Apr (ITIM) — Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres said yesterday on the Voice of Israel that the arms race that has now begun with the Soviet Union's return to Syria should concern Israel's foreign policy. He added that the results of the Lebanon war were not in proportion to the cost of the war.

Peres attacked the Likud government's policy, saying that the world's hostility toward Israel was increasing and damaging the enthusiasm of Jews in the Diaspora for Israel. This primarily involved the tense relations with the United States. He noted that the Alignment governments had never spoken about Israel in terms of a "strategic asset for the United States," but had spoken in terms of values. "We never aimed at intervention beyond the Middle East conflict," he added.

Peres noted that there were some who once said that the Lebanon war would reinforce the U.S. status in Lebanon, but the United States was now standing at Lebanon's side more than at that of Israel.

Responding to a question about King Husayn's joining the peace process in the area, Peres said that it must not be forgotten that the closest border is that with Jordan. He also warned against creating a situation in Judaea and Samaria which would put the lid on peace. Some 1,300,000 Arabs must not be annexed in practice. The government's position on this issue, he added, was to create two threats: turning Israel into a binational state, and cutting the ground from under future dialogue with the Arabs.

Ministerial Committee Approves New Settlements

TA191519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs decided in its session today to establish three new settlements in Judaea and Samaria. They include one in Khirbat Dayr Qalah and Berukhim, which will be established by the National Religious Party, and Oranit, which will be open to private enterprise.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren said that the committee again ruled that the approval for setting up settlements in Judaea and Samaria will only be given if a professional investigation held before shows that the planned settlement would be well incorporated in the regional social fabric and that all its needs could be provided. The Housing Ministry will be entrusted with carrying out this examination.

The committee also approved the establishment of an infrastructure for the settlement in Khirbat Yattir in the southern slopes of the Hebron hills.

More on Settlements Decision

TA200747 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] The joint Ministerial-Jewish Agency Settlement Committee yesterday approved the establishment of three more settlements to be built in western Samaria, committee sources confirmed last night.

The three settlements have been temporarily named Oranit, Berukhim, and Khirbat Dayr Qal'ah, and are planned to include between 1,000 and 1,500 housing units, depending on the land reserves found in each area.

Yesterday's meeting was largely devoted to a review of settlement activity by the Housing Ministry. Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister David Levi presented the committee with a glossy brochure about his ministry's activities, especially in the West Bank.

Levi then proposed that he be given control over all settlement activity in the area. A decision on the motion was put off until the next meeting of the committee, following objections from various members, particularly from Matityahu Drobles of the Jewish Agency's settlement department.

Committee and Cabinet sources said last night that Levi has been irritated by the activities of Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikha'el Deqel, who has set himself up as something of a patron of private initiative in the West Bank — traditionally a prerogative of the Housing Ministry.

"Levi also has the upcoming Herut convention in mind, and a possible fight for the position of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's successor," one source said. "Levi is trying to counter his public image as a dove by establishing himself as the main architect and sponsor of settlement in Judaea and Samaria."

Monday's ceremony marking the handing over of the Nahal outpost on Har Berakha to civilians as the first stage of establishing a Jewish suburb close to Nabalus was raised both at the Cabinet meeting and that of the joint settlement committee.

Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Simha Ehrlich, who chairs the ministerial settlement committee, said at the Cabinet session that the ceremony was out of place, that Levi's attendance was unnecessary, and that publicity surrounding the event was "harmful and provocative."

Ehrlich said that much damage had been done by last month's leak of a plan to hand over eight Nahal outposts to civilians. The process itself was positive, he said, but the fuss was deplorable.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori echoed his remarks, and Defence Minister Moshe Arens was said to have given a meaningful nod of assent.

Levi himself was not present at the Cabinet session. But at the joint settlement committee session later in the day, Levi was warmly praised for the way his ministry had gone about establishing Berakha, which was prepared for civilian settlers within three weeks.

Levi was among those in the ministerial defence committee who originally objected to the establishment of Berakha when it came before that body. Science and Infrastructure Minister Yuval Ne'eman talked of "Upper Nabulus" becoming to Nabulus in another 70 years what Tel Aviv is to Jaffa.

Levi's report to the committee also included details on a number of highways planned to bypass large urban arab areas. The roads will avoid Nabulus and the large Balatah refugee camp nearby, Qalqilyah and Kafr Qasim. Also to be built are roads linking Bayt Sira to Ben-Shemen in the Lod area, Giv'at Ze'ev to Ramot north of Jerusalem, and settlements in the southern Hebron hills to 'Arad.

Two Soviet Intelligence Ships Reported in Area

TA191255 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 83 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] Two Soviet intelligence ships have recently arrived in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea. One of them is anchored off the 'Atlit area, outside Israeli territorial waters, while the other is sailing off Juniyah port, the center of the Lebanese Christians.

The increase in the number of intelligence ships bears witness to the tension between Israel and Syria. As will be recalled, the Soviet Union has started spreading propaganda accusing Israel of intending to attack Syria in the near future. At first one intelligence ship had been cruising in the area and it was recently joined by two more which, judging by their positions, are focusing on intelligence opposite the Israel coast and Juniyah.

Both Israel and Syria deny they intend to launch an attack, and each accuses the other.

Recently, the Syrians complained that the Israeli Air Force carried out demonstrative flights by dozens of aircraft over the Al-Biqa' and its northern part, and the Voice of Lebanon also reported this. The Syrians have declared an alert, and a few days ago held a large exercise.

Mubarak Sends Independence Day Greetings

TA191420 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 83 p 2

[Report by Semadar Peri]

[Text] At a large reception at the home of the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Israel's Independence Day was marked yesterday.

A large tent was pitched in the garden of Ambassador Moshe Sason's home and special lighting was installed. An Israeli flag was placed at the front of the building. Most of the refreshments were brought from the (Groupi) cafe, wellknown among Israeli tourists to Cairo.

Four hundred guests came to the event. Representing the Egyptian Government was Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security Yusuf Wali. Earlier, a special emissary from the Egyptian presidential office came to the ambassador's home to convey President Mubarak's greetings to the people of Israel.

Among the guests at the reception were the chairman of the Egyptian parliament's foreign affairs committee, Dr Muhammad ('Abdallah), the head of the Israel desk at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and the head of the military committee, Admiral (Muhsin Hamadi). Ambassador Sa'd Murtada, who has been in Cairo since last September, did not attend the reception because he is on holiday in Europe. Foreign Affairs Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali sent a bouquet of flowers to the ambassador's home, adding a greeting on the occasion of Israel's Independence Day.

Representatives of the entire foreign diplomatic corps accredited to Cairo took part at the reception, and at their head was U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton. Ambassador Sason extended condolences to Atherton over the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

ALGERIA

Algerian Planning Minister Visits France

LD190506 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Minister of Planning and National Development Abdelhamid Brahimi was received at the Elysee Palace by President of the French Republic Francois Mitterrand. He handed Mitterrand a message from Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party.

Following the talks, which were also attended by Brother Jamal Houhou, the Algerian ambassador to France, Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi said in a statement that President Chadli Bendjedid's message to President Francois Mitterrand dealt with studying the necessary measures concerning the strengthening of economic cooperation between the two countries in the framework of the Algiers summit resolutions.

Brother Brahimi praised the state of relations between the two countries since June 1982. He noted that their cooperation had seen a noticeable development on the basis of joint interests and that the matter now only needed a new thrust to this cooperation in various fields.

Concerning a question about the initiatives which had recently been taken in the Arab Maghreb, he announced that the recent development in the greater Arab Maghreb enables one to think that this will lead to arranging a number of regional activities, particularly in some industrial countries which are adjacent to the Mediterranean, for the purpose of setting up a sound and lasting cooperation.

Brahimi recalled that since the meeting of President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II, another meeting had taken place between the interior ministers of Algeria and Morocco, who prior to that had met in Algiers and who will also meet in Rabat in the near future.

The brother minister added: We have always stressed that there is no dispute between the Algerian and Moroccan countries and peoples. Algeria has remained faithful to the principles of international law.

SUDAN

Reportage on Husni Mubarak's Visit to Sudan

Mubarak, Numayri Meet

NC191224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Apr (MENA) — Official talks were held between President Ja'far Numayri and President Husni Mubarak immediately after President Mubarak's arrival in Khartoum at midday today. The talks between the two presidents began at 1300 while the Egyptian and Sudanese delegations held peripheral talks.

A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Numayri dealt with the developments in the Palestinian issue, current Arab issues, and African issues. They also covered the coming integration steps in light of the meetings of the Higher Integration Council.

President Mubarak arrived at Khartoum airport at 1200 today. He was accorded an official and popular welcome with President Numayri leading the well-wishers.

After the two presidents inspected a guard of honor, President Mubarak shook hands with his well-wishers and with the members of the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum. The motorcade of the two presidents then left for the headquarters of the committee for the plebiscite on the Sudanese presidency, for the third term, at the Nasir cultural club in Khartoum. President Mubarak and his wife cast their vote in the plebiscite. The members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Mubarak and Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif also cast their votes.

Afterward, amid the applause of the crowds, the two presidents left for the Armed Forces Club where they held official talks.

After casting his vote in the plebiscite, President Mubarak said that this is a significant event because it proves the authenticity of the integration between the two countries and it also proves that Egypt and Sudnan are one country.

President Mubarak is accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Presidential Secretary General 'Izz ad-Din Mukhtar, and Chief Chamberlain Sa'id Hamzah.

Those welcoming President Mubarak on his arrival at Khartoum airport also included Sudanese First Vice President Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid, Chief Justice Salah Subaykah, Minister to the Presidency Dr Baha' Ad-Din Muhammad Idris, Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, Secretary General of the Higher Integration Council Abu Bakr 'Uthman Muhammad Salih, as well as senior state officials, high ranking military officials, and ministers.

President Ja'far Numayri will give a luncheon in honor of President Mubarak and his delegation later today. The two presidents will also hold a press conference at the end of the visit.

Mubarak, Numayri Press Conference

NC191746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Apr (MENA) — Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri stated that, during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, they discussed the results of President Mubarak's visit to the Far East and of President Numayri's visit to Liberia and his meeting with three African leaders.

The two presidents also discussed the strategy that is to be followed at the coming African summit conference within the framework of the integration between Egypt and Sudan.

President Numayri said: We approved in principle the budget of the Supreme Council for Integration that was submitted to us by the two integration committees.

This came at a press conference which Presidents Mubarak and Numayri held at the conclusion of President Mubarak's visit to Khartoum.

At the press conference, President Mubarak said that there is no new Egyptian-U.S. initiative on the Palestinian issue. He said: We are continuing with the efforts we are exerting for a comprehensive solution and these efforts will not stop for a single moment.

During the press conference President Mubarak called on the states which assist Iraq and Iran with arms to reconsider the matter because it will have no benefit other than to cause more bloodshed and further exhaust the resources of the two people — something which is not in the interest of the Islamic nation. He said that Egypt is continuing to exert its utmost efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We are also exerting efforts to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war and to solve the Lebanese problem, he said.

At the beginning of the press conference President Ja'far Numayri welcomed President Mubarak and said: He is performing a great duty for the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples by coming to Sudan to cast his vote in the Sudanese presidential referendum. This is greatly significant. All the states are thinking about and analyzing what is happening in the Nile valley.

President Numayri added: We say that what is happening in the Nile valley is happening between two brothers in the same house. We are organizing this house and putting it into its real framework after having gained our freedom and attained our free will. Today we are establishing the foundation [for unity] for our brothers in Africa and the Arab world. Nothing is impossible with solidarity and unity, however everything requires organization and a strong will, and confidence is extremely important.

President Numayri further said: What we have now established and what Brother Husni is establishing with the Sudanese people on behalf of the Egyptian people is something all of humanity should be proud of because the world must unite and be in solidarity to be able to resolve the problems that are facing mankind including the various problems of the wars — of which all of you are aware — and the problems of food and the problems of societies everywhere.

We made a decision. And as I told you earlier, the beginning was what both of us had wished for and this wish led us to the establishment of the Integration Council. Now, in the wake of this integration and after we have made many decisions, this is the great decision that has been realized with the coming of Brother Husni Mubarak to Sudan — to Khartoum — to cast his vote for the president of Sudan on behalf of the Egyptian people [sentence as received]. We pray to God, the gracious, to give us strength to achieve our goal and the integration programs we have drawn up as soon as possible.

President Numayi went on to say: I believe that as long as President Husni Mubarak has been the example that started this, this example will, God willing, find the people who will reflect it [sentence as received]. This is a living example before us.

I implore God to enable us to strengthen this integration and fraternal unity and the determination with which we are working so that they will be another example to all the peoples.

President Husni Mubarak also spoke at the outset of the press conference. He said: First of all, I would like to thank the fraternal Sudanese people for the warm reception they accorded us. However, this is not strange for the brothers in Sudan to do, because I and Egypt regard [the people of] Egypt and Sudan as one people with fraternal President Ja'far Numayri at their head. I will not comment any further on my Brother President Ja'far Numayri's statement.

As to what has been accomplished, we are proceeding with deliberate steps and we always implore God to grant us success in all that brings good to the two peoples.

To a question by the Sudanese newspaper AL-AYYAM on Egypt's role in the Palestinian issue, particularly during the recent phase since the PNC adopted its resolutions in Algiers, President Husni Mubarak said: I do not wish to deal with the resolutions adopted by the PNC which convened in Algiers, nor do I wish to deal with any particular interpretation because the words were clear. I do not wish to bring this subject out into the open again.

I would like to say that Egypt, historically, has supported the Palestinian issue since its inception. Since the issue started, Egypt supported the rights of the Palestinian people and it is still doing everything in its power to achieve a comprehensive solution so that the brother Palestinians will be able to determine their own fate.

President Mubarak went on to say: Today, we do not have an Egyptian-U.S. initiative but the efforts for a comprehensive solution are continuing and will not stop for a single moment, despite what was said in the PNC, because we regard the Palestinian issue as an Arab issue and Egypt is a basic party to it. I do not wish to remind you of the magnitude of the efforts Egypt has been making since 1948 — the October war, the peace initiative, and the various frameworks.

All these efforts have been made within the context of achieving a comprehensive and just solution to the issue. What I now wish and hope for is that the Palestinian brothers in the area will resort to reason and logic and find a way, or rather reach the decision to declare a relationship between them and Jordan so that later, if the solution to the issue is delayed and if we achieve nothing, we will not be the cause. We must put the ball into the U.S.-Israeli court and we must not leave it in the Arab court at all.

President Mubarak continued: Therefore, I urge the Palestinian brothers to let wisdom and logic prevail before it is too late and

to decide with His Majesty King Husayn on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in order to frustrate any excuse to liquidate the Palestinian issue. Time is passing quickly, and we need to exploit this time.

Replying to a question by the Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR about the integration, President Numayri said: I would like to affirm to the Nile valley people that we are cooperating and seriously working for their. I would like to say that I am talking about my Brother Husni, who stands beside me now, and we shall work with all our strength for the prosperity of the Nile valley people.

Replying to a question by the Sudanese newspaper AS-SAHAFAH about the Egyptian-Sudanese diplomatic moves to ensure the success of the next African summit conference, President Numayri said: I would like to say that the strategy with which we shall work at the next OAU conference is to ensure that the conference will not fail. The two previous conferences in Tripoli failed because of the Western Sahara and Chad issues. On the basis of our strategy, [words indistinct] Chad, the Polisario, or any other issue can be submitted to the OAU summit conference, and the conference can make any decision to form committees, make recommendations, and propose solutions to these issues. But we shall try not to allow any issue to cause the failure of the conference.

President Numayri continued: The second thing is that we believe that henceforth the presidency of the OAU should be determined through elections, because Al-Qadhdhafi's desperate attempts to become the president of the OAU weakened the organization. He paid millions of dollars in order to hold the conference in Tripoli and paid much more to become the president of the organization. All of you know that he was the cause of the failure of the two previous conferences.

President Numayri said: This means that he only sought to become president in order to boast about it just as he is boasting about his green or red books and boasting that he will be the commander of the Islamic army, the commander of the African army, the commander of the Saharan legions, and the victorious Jerusalem commander, and that he is going to lead the armies toward Jersualem and so on and so forth, while he has not yet led even a platoon from Tripoli or any area.

President Numayri said: These are two important points in the strategy which will be used — that the OAU president should be elected and that the problems of states must not be the cause of hte organization's failure. He added: The organization must hold its conference, irrespective of everything. The problems of states are transient and the organization should discuss them like all other problems.

President Husni Mubarak then replied to a question by MENA on the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and Egypt's efforts to halt this war. He said: Perhaps you are aware of the enormous efforts that are being made to end this war and halt the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran, both of which are Islamic states. We are opposed to this bloodshed between two Islamic states; many states have called on them to halt this bloodshed. Although Iraq has declared that it will withdraw to the international borders provided it meets with Iran to settle the problem, Iran has not responded to this request.

The president added that the mediation committee led by President Sekou Toure, together with a number of other presidents, such as Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, attempted to mediate between the two countries to halt this bloodshed, but the mediation yielded nothing. What I can say, with regard to the efforts to halt this war, is that we call on the states that are supplying either of these two countries with offensive weapons to reconsider supplying [these weapons) because they only increase the bloodshed and waste the two people's resources, which is in the interest of neither these two people nor the Islamic nation. I cannot say more than that.

Replying to a question by SUNA on Syrian-U.S. contacts, President Mubarak said: There are contacts between Syria and the United States. Nobody can deny that, because they are open. The Golan issue is part of the Middle East problem and is addressed in the second part of the Camp David accords which offer a framework for a comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem.

President Mubarak added: The Golan, the [West] Bank, and any territory occupied in 1976 are subject [khadiah] to the negotiations which are supposed to begin during the coming phase. I believe that the Golan issue can be separated from the West Bank and Gaza Strip at present because it is a complete, interlinked process; I repeat that the solution with regard to the Golan Heights cannot be separated [sentence as received].

President Mubarak went on to say: In order to start the talks for a comprehensive solution, a Jordanian-Palestinian relationship must be declared. It must be declared as soon as possible so as to pave the way and give an opportunity to the United States to use its influence with Israel to start the negotiations and suspend the building of settlements which has been proceeding at a quick pace since U.S. President Reagan's initiative was declared on 1 September 1982.

President Mubarak said that the Israelis will continue to build settlements [word indistinct] as much as possible until the second half of next year. This poses a danger to the [Middle East] issue. For this reason, I appeal to the brother Palestinians in the PLO to declare this relationship [with Jordan] so that we can put the ball in the other court, as I said earlier.

Replying to another question by the Sudanese Armed Forces newspaper about Egypt's efforts to solve the Lebanese problem, President Mubarak said: As I have already said we are continuing to exert utmost efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We also are exerting efforts regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war and we continuously exchange views with the brothers in Lebanon.

There are many contacts with the United States in this regard. I hope that the Lebanese brothers will reach an agreement on withdrawal with the Israelis — with the help of the United States — to provide hope soon for the start of the talks for a comprehensive solution of all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

Replying to a question about the reduction of air fares between Cairo and Khartoum, President Numayri said: We have made decisions in the Supreme Council for Integration, and these decisions were also conveyed to the president of the republic. Instructions for their immediate implementation were given. But as to how and when will they be implemented, this is up to the departments which have to implement them: the Sudanese airlines and the Egypt airline companies.

President Numayri added: From this platform I also instruct — demand — Egypt Air and the Sudanese Airline company to start reducing the fares immediately. We have decided to reduce fares by 60 percent. At first the reduction was 40 percent. We have increased the reduction to 60 percent for the companies operating in the Nile valley.

At the end of the press conference, President Numayri replied to a question about the results of the talks he held today with President Husni Mubarak. He said that the talks dealt with the most important international issues. They also dealt with President Mubarak's trip to Japan, the DPRK, Indonesia, Pakistan, and China and its benefit for the Arab causes and for Africa.

The talks also dealt with bilateral relations between Egypt and these states. We also talked about what is happening now, about the situation in Sudan and Africa from the standpoint of security, stability, and peace which we are all seeking.

President Numayri also said that he talked with President Mubarak about his contacts in Africa and his meeting in Liberia with the presidents of Liberia, Guinea Bissau, and Nigeria. He added: We also talked — and this is an important thing — about the strategy which we shall adopt at the OAU summit conference and about integration. We have approved in principle the budget of the Supreme Council for Integration which was submitted to us by the two Egyptian-Sudanese integration committees.

The press conference of Presidents Mubarak and Numayri lasted 40 minutes.

Assembly Speaker Comments

NC191434 Cairo MENA in English 1325 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, April 19 (MENA) — Speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid said today President Husni Mubarak's visit here today and voting in favour of President Ja'far Numayri is a turning point along the course of integration between the two countries. The step, he said, is a constitutional one towards attaining the unity between the Egyptian and the Sudanese peoples.

'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid said the Parliament of the Nile valley will hold its first session on May 25 in Khartoum. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will attend the session and will deliver speeches on the occasion.

4-Hour Visit Ends

NC191616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Apr (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him left Khartoum at 1600 today after holding talks with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in the Armed Forces Club in the Sudanese capital lasting 1 and 1/2 hours. President Mubarak was seen off at the airport by President Numayri and senior Sudanese officials.

President Mubarak was accorded an official farewell ceremony at Khartoum Airport during which Presidents Mubarak and Numayri reviewed a guard of honor. President Mubarak then shook hands with President Numayri, senior Sudanese officials, and members of the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum before boarding the plane for Cairo at the conclusion of the 4-hour visit to the Sudanese capital.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Declares Readiness for Talks With U.S.

LD200935 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Polisario Front has declared itself ready for talks with the U.S. Government for a future of peace and mutual trust. This desire was expressed in a Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SADR] communique following the rejection by the U.S. Congress subcommittee on Africa of the Reagan administration's measures aimed at intensifying the war in the Western Sahara. The Polisario Front also stated that it considers that only a balanced policy by the U.S. Government between the SDAR and Morocco will enable a contribution to be made toward the effective establishment of a process of peaceful decolonization in the Western Sahara.

ETHIOPIA

Government Makes Appointments, Changes 19 April

EA191936 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Provisional Military Government today made appointments and changes among some high ranking government officials, according to a spokesman of the Provisional Military Government. The appointments and changes are as follows:

1. Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, secretary general of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC], COPWE Executive Committee member, and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

2. Comrade Fisseha Desta, deputy secretary general of the PMAC, COPWE executive member, and head of administration, justice, and defense of the COPWE Central Committee.

3. Minister of labor and social affairs: Comrade Berhanu Baye, PMAC Standing Committee member and COPWE Executive Committee member.

4. Minister of industry: Comrade Hailu Yimenu, senior minister, secretary general of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign an Central Planning Supreme Council, and COPWE Central Committee member.

5. Minister of law and justice: Comrade Emanuel Amde Michael, deputy senior minister and COPWE Central Committee member.

6. Minister of finance: Comrade Tesfaye Dinka, COPWE Central Committee member.

7. Comrade Bashager Yigletu, COPWE Central Committee member: head of the Institute for the Study of Nationalities.

8. Comrade Brigadier General Seyoum Mekonen, COPWE Central Committee member: head of the Military Commissariat at the Ministry of the Interior.

9. Comrade Shemelis Adugna, COPWE Central Committee member: commissioner of the National Children's Commission.

10. Comrade Gessesse Wolde Kidan, Standing Committee and COPWE Central Committee member: commissioner of pensions.

11. Comrade Dawit Wolde Giorgis, COPWE Central Committee member: commissioner of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

12. Colonel Habte Mariam Ayenachew: deputy commissioner of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

13. Comrade Taye Gurumu: deputy commissioner of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

14. Comrade Getachew Kibret: ambassador [country of accreditation not given].

15. Comrade Kassa Kabede, COPWE Central Committee alternate member: ambassador [country of accreditation not given].

16. Comrade Tesfaye Habte, COPWE Central Committee member: ambassador [country of accreditation not given].

Eritrean Front on Successful Combat Operation

EA181707 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Halhal front: Continuing its offensive yesterday, the heroic popular army of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front gained control of the greater part of the Halhal area after inflicting heavy damage on the second division of the enemy forces. In yesterday'sleft and right flank engagement, 160 enemy soliders were captured, 300 were killed, and another 400 were wounded. The remainder of the force fled in disarray. Two hundred and twenty-six assault rifles, 10 Bren guns, 6 RPG's, 2 B10 guns, a 23-mm anti-aircraft gun, and 5 radio sets were captured. [passage indistinct]

KENYA

Telecommunications Link With Sudan Discussed

EA200246 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Kenya and the Sudan will soon enjoy direct telecommunication links by the end of this year. an assistant minister for transport and communications, (Mr Omar Soba), announced at a press conference in Nairobi yesterday. The planned link will rid both countries of the problems of paying transit charges. Mr Soba also reported that the intended connection would further ensure the security of sensitive communications between Kenya and the Sudan. Mr Soba said that his mission in the Sudan had been successful and that the two sides had agreed to speed up the project to ensure its completion by the end of the year. He disclosed that a Sudanese ministerial delegation will visit Kenya next month for the final discussions on the communication link.

CHAD

AFP: Goukouni Forces Use Economic Sabotage

AB191112 Paris AFP in English 1014 GMT 19 Apr 83

[By Bernard Degioanni]

[Text] Ndjamena, April 19 (AFP) — Armed bands, labelled as supporters of the deposed Libyan-backed president, Goukouni Oueddei, are attacking civilians in the centre and south of the country, informed sources said in Ndjamena. In the South they have been burning parts of the cotton crop, impoverished Chad's main source of export revenue, according to the source. The defence minister, Major Routang Yoma, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the gangs, which have been active for several weeks, were being checked by government forces and posed no threat to national security.

In central Chad, on the road from Ndjamena to Mongo 350 kilometers (220 miles) to the east, two armed groups each of 150 men have been robbing travellers — mainly traders from Ndjamena — of money, food and anything else of value they can carry, according to residents of the region. Travellers taking the road said the attacks had diminished as it was late in the dry season, and the gangs could not go far from the few water-points, which were watched by the regular forces. To escape military checks they force local people, already suffering from lack of food, to keep them supplied.

The authorities had also reacted by instituting a system of lorry convoys under military escort, the travellers said. However, reliable sources here said that earlier this month several Nigerian truck drivers refused to take several tons of food supplied as international emergency aid to Abeche, northwest of Mongo.

In the south, the attackers were said to be concentrating on villages round Doba and Goumra where cotton markets are held. Agents buying the cotton from farmers are particular targets. Their tactic follow the same pattern: The market is surrounded, the villagers forced to flee, money taken and the cotton set afire. The actions appear to have a political motive in that the cotton is not destroyed until the grower has been paid for it, so that his financial situation is not affected but the chances of the country's economic recovery are prejudiced.

Major Routouang said the gangs in both areas were supporters of former President Goukouni, who was deposed by President Hissein Habre's Armed Force of the North faction last June. He controls a small area of the north near the Libyan border with support from Tripoli.

The defence minister, himslef a southerner, had just returned from a tour of the south on a government propaganda campaign. He said that the gangs had also attacked a cotton ginning plant at Nbediondo and partially destroyed it. He denied reports that the authorities had tried to press-gang school students in the southern towns of Sarh and Moundou into the army. Such reports were attempted by "nostalgic elements" to "spread disaffection and incite disorder," he said.

Bardai Asks Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism

AB182010 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] International imperialism in general and U.S. imperialism in particular is the enemy of the people. We have seen the United States support the Zionist State of Israel against the Arab nations in the Middle East; in southern Africa, the United States has been denounced because of its alliance with the minority regime of South Africa; in Latin America, the United States has been condemned for its destabilizing activities against the Nicaraguan revolutionary regime, among others; lastly in our subregion, U.S. imperialism is known for its support of the reactionary regimes of Sudan, Zaire, and to the reactionary and fascist clique in Ndjamena. There is only a way to free our country from the imperialist yoke. It is the revolutionary armed struggle.

GABON

Bongo Returns From Visit to Senegal 18 April

AB192001 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The president of the Republic and head of state accompanied by his wife, Mrs Josephine Bongo, the honorary chairman of the Women's Union of the Gabonese Democratic Party, arrived early yesterday afternoon after a 3-day friendly and working visit to Senegal. The brief stay of the father of the renovation in Senegal permitted him to take stock of cooperation between Libreville and Dakar with Mr Abdou Diouf, his Senegalese counterpart.

The two men especially examined means of strengthening this cooperation and guaranteeing it. On the international scene, Alhaji Omar Bongo and Abdou Diouf again expressed their concern over the crisis that has been bedeviling the OAU for over a year now.

ZAIRE

Cooperation Accord With USSR Signed in Moscow

AB191652 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1505 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Apr (AZAP) — A cultural and scientific accord and a draft agreement governing that accord were signed between Zaire and the USSR following the working visit made by Citizen Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga, secretary of state for international cooperation, to the Soviet Union from 11-15 April.

Citizen Lengema Dulia, who returned to Kinshasa Sunday night, told AZAP that in the Soviet capital he had several talks with his Soviet counterparts in economic relations, foreign trade, and merchant marine. He met in particular Mr Khotsialov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR; Mr Leonid Fedorovich Ilichev, deputy

minister of foreign affairs; Mr Zhuravlev, deputy minister of foreign trade; and Mr Pyasetskiy, deputy minister of maritime fleet.

The secretary of state for international cooperation emphasized that his talks centered on ways and means of intensifying their bilateral relations to fit the dimension of the cooperation between the two countries. He said these talks which began in Moscow will be continued by contacts until they turn into projects discussed by the two parties.

Citizen Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga was accompanied to the Soviet Union by Citizen Atembina Te Bombo, director of European Affairs in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Visits 15 April
AB170809 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1400 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Apr (AZAP) — Nigerian Foreign Minister Ishaya Audu arrived in Kinshasa on Friday, bearing of a message from President Shehu Shagari to the founding-president of the MPR and president of the Republic, Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. The message, the Nigerian statesman said, concerns the forthcoming OAU summit which, "by the grace of God," will take place next June in Addis Ababa."

Lauding the excellent relations existing between his country and Zaire, Ishaya Audu stated that he will take the opportunity in his 1-day visit to examine with the Zairian authorities certain problems of common interest and to exchange views on some current African issues.

The Nigerian emissary was welcomed by Kamanda wa Kamanda, state commissioner for external affairs and international cooperation who returned to Kinshasa on the same day from Buenos Aires, Argentina where he represented Zaire at the meeting of the "Group of 77." Citizen Nzekele, ambassador of Zaire in Lagos, and Ademola Ageh, Nigerian ambassador in Kinshasa, also welcomed the Nigerian minister upon his arrival.

ANGOLA

Minister Announces $410 Million Brazil Loan

AB191239 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Brazilian Government has granted a $410 million loan to the People's Republic of Angola, Angolan Minister of Planning Lopo do Nascimento announced. The Angolan official, who recently concluded his official visit to Brazil at the invitiation of his counterpart, Delfim Netto, indicated that $310 million of the amount will spent on import of Brazilian equipment and industrial products while the remaining $100 million will be spent on import of foodstuff.

During his visit to Brazil, Lopo do Nascimento met with the ministers of mining, finance, energy, and industry and trade with whom he discussed issued of boosting cooperation and trade between the two countries.

The Angolan official, who was accompanied by the ambassador of Brazil accredited to the People's Republic of Angola, visited the Brazilian towns Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Baia and various cities connected with electric lineage and agricultural production.

UNITA Willing To Exchange Czechoslovak Prisoner

AB191836 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Lisbon, April 19 (AFP) — The rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola is prepared to exchange one of the Czechoslovak prisoners held since March 12 for Philippe Augoyard, the French doctor recently sentenced to eight years imprisonment in Afghanistan. Dr Augoyard was sentenced to death after being captured while working for an international medical agency in Afghanistan but his sentence was commuted to a jail term by the Soviet-backed Kabul authorities.

The UNITA statement said that Dr Maria Hudekova, one of 64 Czechoslovaks captured in Alto Catumbela, southwestern Angola, along with 20 Portuguese nationals, would be exchanged for Dr Augoyard. The statement from the South African-backed movement repeated that an unspecified number of the Czechoslovaks would be released in exchange for the seven British mercenaries imprisoned in Angola since 1976.

More on Prisoners

LD192357 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2230 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] UNITA today promised that it would release — unconditionally — most of the Portuguese prisoners in its hands, without saying when, how, and where it would do so. It said in a statement published in Lisbon that it would not, however, set free some of the Portuguese suspected of having collaborated with Angolan state security.

It said it would free the Czechoslovak and Portuguese children but that their parents could only be visited by the International Red Cross when the prisoners arrive at UNITA's central base. Some 80 prisoners, kidnapped more than a month ago in Alto Catumbela, Angola, are reportedly being forced to march about 500 km to the UNITA base.

The organization, waging a war against the Angolan regime, disclosed in today's statement that it would only release some of the Czechoslovaks in return for seven mercenaries serving jail sentences in Luanda. It said it would also release another of the prisoners — a doctor, probably a Czechoslovak — only in return for a French doctor who, according to UNITA, is being held by the Soviet Army in Afghanistan.

While UNITA claims that it is holding some 20 Portuguese nationals, the ANOP news agency quotes the Portuguese Foreign Ministry as saying that it only knows of one Portuguese prisoner in UNITA's hands.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Addresses Military, Political Trainees

MB191910 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] In Manhica yesterday President Samora Machel described the nature of the actions of banditry in the towns and in the countryside as being two faces of the same coin. The field marshal of the republic was addressing trainees who had concluded a course at the Manhica military and political training center. In you we can see the certainty of victory over the armed bandits, the certainty of the victory of socialism, and the determination to struggle for the interests of the Mozambique people, said Samora Machel to the graduating trainees.

The graduates contributed 30,600 meticals to support the convening of the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress.

Present at the graduation ceremony were the defense minister, Lieutenant General Alberto Chipande, the governor of Maputo Province, Major General Jose Moiane, and other officers.

SOUTH AFRICA

SAPA: SWAPO 'Terrorists' Kill Policeman

MB191121 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0900 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Pretoria, April 19, SAPA — A South African policeman has been killed in a skirmish with SWAPO terrorists in the northern SWA/Namibian operational area, the commissioner of police, General Mike Geldenhuys, announced in a brief communique in Pretoria today. He is Sergeant J.H. Meissenheimer, 27, of the counterinsurgency force. The communique did not state when the death occurred. Sergeant Messenheimer, who was not married, was the eldest son of Colonel J.J.V. Meissenheimer of the Norwood police in Johannesburg.

Civilian Vehicle Attacked

MB191123 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0902 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Johannesburg, April 19, SAPA — A gang of SWAPO terrorists attacked a civilian vehicle, injuring two of its occupants, the acting secretary of the Ovambo administration told the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] today. Mr Frans Viljoen said the incident took place on the road between Onandjokwe and Ondangwa.

The two injured men were taken to the Onanjokwe hospital, he said. Mr Saula Oiva had been discharged, but Mr Samuel Amuthenu was still being treated. No other details were available.

Johannesburg on SWAPO Diplomatic Offensive

MB191721 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Station commentary: "SWAPO'S Diplomatic Clout"]

[Text] The biggest propaganda show ever staged for the South-West Africa Peoples Organization is about to begin. For the next week, South Africa and the Western world will be subjected to a media bombardment designed to portray SWAPO as a winner in South-West Africa and to bolster international diplomatic support for it.

The venue is Paris, The promoter is the United Nations Council for Namibia. It gets under way with a 2-day media encounter. That is a preview for the world's journalists evidently to ensure their receptiveness to what follows; that is 5 days of, as the agenda puts it, solidarity with SWAPO as the sole liberator of Namibia. The forces behind SWAPO clearly had to take drastic action even by abandoning the recent tactic of soft-pedaling the partiality of the United Nations.

Militarily, SWAPO has suffered crippling setbacks. Its force of armed terrorists in Angola has been declining steadily from some 12,000 in 1979, to 7,000 last year, and in that year it lost a further 1,300 men in engagements with South-West African territory forces.

Its latest offensive against the territory, the biggest it has undertaken, has failed badly with more than a quarter of its best trained men killed in the process. The diplomatic offensive must make up for those losses, and with the United Nations safely in the hands of the communist radical bloc, it is an obvious instrument for spearheading the attack.

Gone is the recent sensitivity to charges of UN partiality. American initiatives in southern Africa are showing too much promise of success for even a facade of cooperation still to be maintained. The Paris conference will have as its emblem a modified version of SWAPO'S fiery torch symbol. One of the agenda items is an open expression of solidarity with and assistance to, as it reads: a united Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO, the sole and authentic representative.

Recent extravagant claims by SWAPO of successes in the terrorist campaign have been incorporated into official UN documents for the conference. Papers drawn up by the staff of the Council for Namibia attack the Western powers and big business for their plunder of South-West Africa and calls for economic sanctions against South Africa. In the diplomatic field at least, SWAPO and its backers are rampant, to the extent that they succeed in that campaign. However, they also have exposed the United Nations as a body altogether unfit to oversee an equitable independent settlement for South-West Africa. In doing so, they will be destroying whatever prospects that have been opening up for such a settlement to be achieved in the foreseeable future.

Hendrickse: Botha Approves Colored Referendum

MB191453 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1426 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Pretoria, April 19, SAPA, The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, had agreed to a referendum for Coloureds on the government's proposed constitutional reforms, the leader of the Labour Party, the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, said today.

He told a lunchtime student meeting at Pretoria University that details and a date for the referendum still had to be worked out, but that a referendum was definitely on the cards for the coloured people.

"We went to the prime minister last Thursday to ask him for a referendum and he said 'yes,'" Mr Hendrickse said.

Mr Hendrickse's statement has caused some confusion in political circles, as many people were led to believe that, although Mr Botha had promised some test of opinion after talks with Coloured and Indian leaders in Cape Town last week, he had not committed himself on what form the "test" would take.

But Mr Hendrickse attributed the confusion today to the news media, "particularly the English press, which is trying to analyse the word 'test' and are reading all kinds of meanings into it." "But I have no argument about the fact that there is going to be a referendum," he said.

Mr Hendrickse stressed today, however, that the Labour Party would not participate in the reform programme if it failed to obtain a mandate from the Coloureds in the impending referendum.

Contrary to opinion poll findings, he believed the majority of Coloureds supported the Labour Party's decision to participate in the dispensation.

Although the Labour Party did not regard the proposed reforms as the final solution to South Africa's racial problems, it nevertheless believed they were a good starting point to achieve its aspirations, Mr Hendrickse said.

SWAZILAND

Clashes Along Border With Mozambique Reported

MB191152 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English19 Apr 83 p 1, 16

[By Mandla Magagaula and Donny Nxumalo]

[Text] The chatter of machinegun fire shattered the still morning air near Lomahasha Central School yesterday as the Swazi Army clashed with unknown gunmen from Mozambique.

The incident happened at about 10 a.m., about one kilomtere from the school close to the Swazi-Mozambique border fence.

Umbutfo Swaziland Defense Force headquarters confirmed the incident, but declined to give details.

"Classes were suddenly disrupted when machingun fire boomed on the border about a kilometre away from the school," said a resident of Lomahasha.

"We saw some people running around and disappearing into the bushes. Some of them, wearing casual dress, were seen jumping the fence.

"However, because of the tall grass and the maize fields, we could not tell whether the people were jumping the fence into Swaziland or going into Mozambique. We were not sure either who was shooting whom. Our soldiers were on patrol as usual when the shooting started."

The resident said members of the Umbutfo Defence Force patrolling the fence were making increasing regular contact with people jumping the fence from Mozambique to come and look for maize meal and bread in Swaziland.

He reported that another shooting incident had occurred on Sunday morning when Swazi soldiers came across a group of Mozambicans trying to cross into Swaziland.

He said the Swazi Army patrol was making an average of at least six contacts a month with Mozambicans trying to jump the fence into Swaziland.

"When we do make contact with these Mozambicans they claim that the drought has hit them so hard that they have no food in their country," said the resident.

"What is worrying us is that we can't tell whether they are genuine cases looking for food, or members of the South African liberation movements using Swaziland as a corridor to get to South Africa. We are mostly worried that if this should develop into serious confrontation, some of the residents might be caught in the crossfire."

Another resident near the school said that five of the armed men wearing casual dress were seen jumping the fence into Mozambique. The five men got into a car on the Mozambique side of the fence and sped away from the Swazi soldiers, said this resident, who refused to be identified.

"There are many of these incidents happening now and again," he said.

"These Mozambicans — if they are Mozambicans — are bringing in a lot of guns into the country. Security must be stepped up along the border between the two countries."

Some residents said they did not believe that all the people jumping the fence into Swaziland were coming to look for food. The residents said some of the people coming from Mozambique were heavily armed and were suspected to be members of the African National Congress or the Mozambique National Resistance Movement.

"People looking for food have no reason to be armed," said one resident.

During December last year, Army headquarters admitted two shooting incidents between members of the Umbutfo Defence Force and the ANC.

On both occasions, Army Chief of Staff Colonel Mangomeni Ndzimandze said, members of the ANC had opened fire and fled.

Government May Build Refugee Camp Near RSA Border

MB151107 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] From Mbabane, it is reported that the Swazi Government is to construct a refugee settlement in Lavumisa, adjacent to the South African border in the area near the Ingwavuma district of Kwazulu. This plan came to light when the minister of finance presented a budgetary request to Parliament for approval of funds to purchase a farm on which the settlement will be built.

ZIMBABWE

Knowledge of Botswana Border Crossing Denied

AB191827 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Harare, April 19 (AFP) — Zimbabwe said today that it had no information on reported cross-border violations by Zimbabwean troops, while Botswana refused to comment on the alleged capture of 21 Botswanans by the Zimbabwean soldiers.

"We know nothing about this," Zimbabwean Government spokesman Justin Nyoka said of the report yesterday by South African Radio that Zimbabwean soldiers had crossed into Botswana twice two weeks ago in search of supporters of fugitive opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

Meanwhile in Gaborone, the Botswana Government refused to comment on the report broadcast last night by SABC according to which the soldiers had also abducted 21 Botswanan civilians, who were later freed.

The Johannesburg STAR newspaper today said that most of the 21 Botswanans were veterinary workers. The paper said they were forcibly taken into Zimbabwe in stolen trucks.

The STAR commented that the incident was the latest demonstration of the deteriorating relations between Zimbabwe and Botswana, and "may have set the scene for future hot-pursuit raids aimed at fleeing Zimbabwean refugees."

About 3,000 Zimbabweans have fled southwestern Zimbabwe into Botswana in order to escape repression by government forces in their search for dissident guerrillas, mostly former members of Mr Nkomo's wartime guerrila army.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe's top security ministers have returned from Botswana where they held talks on security matters with Botswanan Government officials over the weekend.

Home Affairs Minister Herbert Ushewokunze said that the Zimbabwean delegation discussed matters "of mutual interest" with the Botswanans, including "the protocol on joint defence and security and more importantly, cross-border activities".

Other members of the Zimbabwean delegation were Minister of State for Security Emmerson Munangagwa, Minister of State for Defence Sydney Sekeramayi, Army Commander Rex Nhongo and Police Chief Wiridzayi Nguruve.

The Zimbabwean news agency ZIANA, quoting a dispatch from the BOTSWANA PRESS AGENCY, said the Botswana delegation to the talks was led by Vice President Peter Mmusi. The delegation also included Information Minister Daniel Kwelagobe, who is also responsible for the police and army, and Home Affairs Minister Kebatshabile Disele.